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GAZETTEER OF INDIA

MADHYA PRADESH

DURG



Speak no evil, Hear no evil, See no evil—Teen Bander (16th or 17th century A. D.), Rajnandgaon (Courtesy State Archaeology)

MADHYA PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

DURG

Dr. RAJENDRA VERMA
B. A. (Hons), M.A., Ph. D.
State Editor
Revision of District Gazetteers
Government of Madhya Pradesh

DISTRICT GAZETTEERS DEPARTMENT
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PREFACE

The present volume on 'Durg' is of a series of district gazetteers of Madhya Pradesh which the State Government have planned to publish. The earlier gazetteer of this district was compiled and edited under the supervision of a British officer, Mr. A. E. Nelson, I. C. S., and was published in June 1909. But that gazetteer was itself an adaptation of Mr. E. R. K. Blenkinsop's Settlement Report of Durg Tahsil (1903). The Durg tahsil, the former spelling of it being 'Drug', was constituted as a district in the year 1906 and hence arose the need to write in 1909 a comprehensive account of it as an administrative unit including its ethos—its ethnic and geological contents.

The British administrator in those days needed a refreshing acquaintance with the life and business of the district he was called upon to administer more or less without an answerability to a democratic institution. He wanted an instrument of liaison with the way of life of the people to which he was a complete stranger. He had the leisure in ample measure to cultivate such personal insight into a people's living and was permeated by an anxitey to render a balance-sheet of the revenue collection under the pre-British rulers and the British ones. He was under no distracting pulls which impel a modern district administrator to put through the schemes of the five year plans. Life was placid and the zeal was fresh to paint an image of orderly development of Governmental institutions. The mode of conveyance--probably the horse and the bullock cart—accounted for the leisurely observation of customs and manners of the people which the British Collector must have found interesting. His anxiety was to project the harmonious growth of life of the district, and in treating the historical period immediately preceding the British takeover, he was at pains to set off the benefits of the British rule

The intellectual and moral climate of independent India put a new accent on administrator's task, and so began a new approach to the writing of gazetteer modern India. Although, in the official jargon, the present volume is a revision of the earlier gazetteers, it is, in fact, not the case of old wine appearing in a new bottle. The 'district' of the State in India, especially after the States Reorganisation in 1956, is a unit with a certain homogeneity which renders development works easy of execution. Its administration is presided over by the District Collector who has the immediate responsive function of executing Governmental policy in his district, keeping himself nerved to peoples' aspirations. He is not a stranger to the people of whom he is a part and parcel. The new gazetteer, therefore, does not enlarge upon the complex web of customs and manners of the people which engaged the attention of the British administrator,

of course, where social modes provide the die to the casting of special patterns of behaviour—especially in its anthropological setting—the gazetteer does make a note of them.

The currents of developmental activities which state governments in free India have released acquire a relevance of their own in the new gazetteer which records the economic, commercial and industrial life of the area. It is not only the administrator who looks upon the gazetteer as a mirror of the pulsating life of the district, but also the entrepreneur who is looking for sources of raw material, the environs and the marketing potentialities of the area.

The historian, with his hindsight and the foresight, looks for the recorded events and the unrecorded ones rolled together in a parchment of convincing verisimilitude. The present can not judge history; it is one of history's paradoxes that history is judged by and in history.

The historical portion in the new gazetteer is cognisant of this hard truth, and therefore an attitude of impersonal narrative is maintained throughout. There is no attempt at interpreting historical facts to fit into a theory or a doctrine, and certainly there is no attempt at 'judgement'. It is all a cool playing up of facts, and playing down of 'person', so that after a century or so when the reader reads the historical narration he may find fault with the collation of facts but never with the aim of maintaining truth and objectivity.

Thus the gazetteer transcends the limitation of its dictionary meaning—that it is a geographical index, and becomes the focal point of several rays of interest which light up a district. The administrator, when he takes charge of the district wishes to see how the ground lies, the historian and economist wish to see how the district segment fits in with the larger historical and economic pattern, and the general reader glances round for the features and specialities that go to make up the sum total of the district.

In the compilation and editing of the present volume on Durg Gazetteer the Compilers and Editors took a hand which redounds to their credit. The following officers of the department including A. S. E. I. II and Editors Sarvashri S. D. Guru and R. K. Jain, Vishnu Saran, M. M. Muley, P. K. Bhatnagar, R. R. Jain, R. K. Shrivastava and M. P. Dubey; and Compilers Mrs. N. Sen, K. R. R. C. Nair, R. C. Munje, S. M. Rastogi, N. P. Pandey and R. K. Nayak strained every nerve to produce the drafts of the respective chapters. They have been scrupulous about authenticity which has been their over-riding care.

My special thanks are due to Shri P. N. Shrivastav, the late State Editor of the M. P. Gazetteers, who had pioneered the basic drafts.

The Press Officer Shri K. R. R. C. Nair under the supervision of Shri R. K. Shrivastava did a good job at the production stage and Dr. R. K. Jain saw to the overall academic accord with the Central plan of chapter sub-

headings. Sarvashri V. K. Jain, K. S. Sharma, A. M. Sharma and Nawal Kishore looked after the miscellaneous work.

The debt of gratitude of this department to Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Central Gazetteers Unit, Government of India, whose unfailing advice guided the compilation work is hereby acknowledged.

The members of the State Advisory Board deserve thanks for their helpful suggestions on the drafts, and in particular Shri Sundarlal Tripathi, who held discussion on the linguistic problem of the district.

14 Novr. 1972.

RAJENDRA VERMA

State Editor.

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1. Durg District—Physical
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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL

Durg District is one of the large and populous districts of Madhya Pradesh. It occupies the south-western part of the rich Chhattisgarh plain and possesses belts of hilly country in the south, south-west and north-west, bestowed with mineral resources and forests. The District, lying in the Raipur Commissioner's Division extends between the latitude 20°7'N. and 22°29'N. and the longitude 80°23'E. and 87 57'E. Its greatest length from north to south is about 267.3 km. (166 miles) and the width, from east to west, about 122.4 km. (76 miles). The area of the District is 19,621·84 sq. km. (7,576 sq. miles).[1] It has a population of 18,85,236.[2]

The shape of the District is that of a pentagon elongated from north to south. The District is bounded by the District of Bilaspur on the extreme north and north-east, by Raipur District on the east and by Kanker Sub-Division of Bastar District on the south. Along the western margin lie the districts of Chandrapur (Chanda) and Bhandara of Maharashtra State and Balaghat and Mandla districts of Madhya Pradesh, all in succession from south to north. Mandla District also caps the conical northern apex of the District boundary. The eastern boundary of the District is, in most parts, well defined by the south to north courses of the Kharun and the Seonath rivers, whereas the western boundary is beyond the waster-shed of Maikal range and runs in parts, along the Seonath, the Bagh, the Bagh (Minor), the Tanda and Banjar. Two small sections of the north-eastern boundary, lashing with Bilaspur are marked by the Haup and the Phonk.

Origin of the Name of Durg

The District derives its name from the headquarters town of Durg which has also been the headquarters of one of the *Garhs*, traditionally the *parganas* administered from a fort under the Kalachuris. The original name of the town was as given in an inscription found here,[3] Shiva Durg, which may mean the fort on the River Sheo or Seonath. The town appears to have been founded about the tenth century by one Jagpal, who came from Badhal Desh in Mirzapur, became Officer of the Treasury of the Raja of Ratanpur and was rewarded by the grant of Durg with 700 villages for his services. The town

1 Surveyor-General of India. The area estimated by the State Survey Department is 19,425.76 sq. km. (7,500 29 sq. miles).
2 Census of India, 1961.
3 Drug District Gazetteer, p. 164.

still contains some ruins of great antiquity, *viz.*, a mud-fort surrounded by a moat, the temple of Hanuman and some broken images.

History of the District as an Administrative Unit

As stated before, Durg had been the headquarters of a *'garh'* comprising 700 villages. Subsequently, the size of the *garhs* and *Zamindaries* within the present District appear in the list given in the Account Book of Kalyan Sai. Kanker (Gurur), Sahaspur-Lohara, Dhamda, Balod, Panabaras and Sorar were other *Zamindaries* under the Kalachuris, and later, under the Marathas.

Durg, which was attached to Bhandara,[1] was made a tahsil of Raipur District in 1857. Durg District was created on the 1st January, 1906 with an area of 9,861.658 sq. km. (3,807.59 sq. miles) which included the old Durg tahsil, the western portions of the then Dhamtari and Simga tahsils of Raipur and a part of Mungeli tahsil of Bilaspur District. Throughout the British rule the town, the then tahsil and the then district were spelt as 'Drug'. At that time the District was divided into 3 tahsils of Durg, Bemetara and Sanjari-Balod (with head-quarters at Balod). Four Zamindaries, Panabaras, Koracha, Aundhi and Ambagarh-Chuki, with an area of 838 square miles (2,170.4 sq. km.) were transferred from Chanda (now Chandrapur) District to Durg, increasing the size of the District to 12,030.5 sq. km. (4,645 sq. miles) on 1st October, 1907.

On the 1st January, 1948, the four Princely States of Khairagarh (1,618.7 sq. km.), Rajnandgaon (1,906.2 sq. km.), Kawardha (875.4 sq. km.) and Chhuikhadan (352.2. sq. km.) joined the Union of India and were incorporated in Durg District of Madhya Pradesh. In the beginning, the total area of these Feudatory States was arranged into six tahsils, *viz.*, Khairagarh, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Chhuikhadan, Dongargarh and Khamariya. Later on, the tahsils of Chhuikhadan, Dongargarh and Khamariya were abolished and five of the remaining six tahsils (including the three old tahsils) under went a reorganisation. Only Durg tahsil retained its old boundaries.

The details of territorial changes, consequent upon the re-organisation of tahsils between the Census of 1951 and 1961. are given below.[2]

Khairagarh tahsil gained 59 villages (173.8 sq. km.) from Rajnandgaon tahsil, 60 villages and one town (183.4 sq. km.) from the then Chhuikhadan tahsil, 169 villages and one town (755.2 sq. km.) from the then Dongargarh tahsil and 129 villages (403.5 sq. km.) from Bemetara tahsil. There was a loss of seven villages (32.1 sq. km.) to Rajnandgaon tahsil, and the net gain of Khairagarh tahsil was 1,483.8 sq. km.

1 Ibid, p. 48. The headquarters of the then Bainganga Prant or District were at Lanji, Kamtha and Bhandara in succession. The District was divided into 13 ***Parganas*** and also included parts of the then Raipur District. See Bhandara District Gazetteer, 1908, pp. 32, 33, 39 and 148.

2 The area figures of the tahsils do not cover the large blocks of Reserved forests.

Bemetara tahsil gained 39 villages (121.2 sq. km.) from the then Khamariya tahsil, 57 villages (193.7 sq. km.) from Rajnandgaon tahsil and 17 villages (64.2 sq. km.) from the then Chhuikhadan tahsil. These gains were exceeded by the loss of 129 villages (403.5 sq. km.) transferred to Khairagarh tahsil and 145 villages (382.8 sq. km.) to Kawardha tahsil. The net loss of Bemetara tahsil was, thus, 407.2 sq. km.

In Rajnandgaon tahsil, 8 villages (26.9 sq.km.) were added from the then Dongargarh tahsil, 7 villages (32.1 sq. km.) from Khairagarh tahsil and 60 villages (254.6 sq. km.) from Sanjari-Balod tahsil. Rajnandgaon tahsil lost 57 villages (193.7 sq. km.) to Bemetara tahsil and 59 villages (173.8 sq. km.) to Khairagarh tahsil. The net result was the loss of 53.9 sq. km.

Sanjari-Balod tahsil lost 60 villages settled along the east bank of the Seonoth (254.6 sq. km.) to Rajnandgaon tahsil.

Kawardha tahsil was enlarged by the additions of 71 villages (246.6 sq. km.) from the then Khamariya tahsil, 27 villages (88.1 sq. km.) from the then Chhuikhadan tahsil and 145 villages (382.8 km.) from Bemetara tahsil.

The area and population of each of the tahsils, according to the State Survey Department and the Census of India, 1961 is given below :—

Tahsil	Area in Sq. kms.	Area in Sq. miles	Population
Kawardha	1,653.17	638.29	172,468
Khairagarh	2,276.73	879.04	225,376
Bemetara	2 853.38	1,101 69	317,006
Rajnandgaon	1,940.87	749.37	269,019
Durg	3,006.81	1,160.93	520,100
Sanjari-Balod	3,840.12	1,482.67	381,267
Durg District	19,425 76	7,500.29	1,885,236

For the purposes of General Administration each tahsil forms a Sub-Division and is placed in the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer. The district is divided into a number of Police Station circles for Police Administration. In the year 1965 the Police Stations were located at Durg, Bhilai, Bhilai Nagar, Bhilai Bhatti, Chhaoni, Patan, Arjunda, Ranchirai, Dhamda, Nawagarh, Nanghat, Berla, Saja, Khamaria, Gurur, Manpur, Bemetara, Ambagarh-Chowki, Dondi, Dondi-Lohara, Pinkapar, Dongargaon, Chhuria, Ghumka, Dongargarh, Gandai, Chhuikhadan, Piparia, Rengakhar, Balod, Bodla, Sahaspur-Lohara, Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh and Kawardha. In addition, there are Police out posts at Mohla, Jharandulli and Nandini.

TOPOGRAPHY

The District occupies the south-western part of the Upper Seonath-Mahanadi valley and the bordering hills in the south and the south-west. Physiographically, the District can be divided into three divisions, viz., the Chhattisgarh Plain, the Southern Plateau and the Maikal (Saletekri) Range. The Chhattisgarh Plain occupies the largest area in the District. The Maikal or the south-eastern scarp of the Satpura plateau presents the most dominant land-form of the District.

The Chhattisgarh Plain

The country below Khujji, Khertha and Balod is a part of the open Chhattisgarh Plain, gently sloping, thickly populated, closely cultivated and almost devoid of its natural flora. On the west and north-west the plain extends upto Musra, Khairagarh and Kawardha. The basin is mostly composed of horizontally bedded or very low dipping limestones and shales of the Cuddapah age, concealed under the cappings of alluvial clays and the washed gravelly (*Bhata*) ground on tops of the mounds. It lies at an elevation of about 1,000 ft. (304.8 metres) above mean sea level and occupies nearly the whole of eastern and central parts of the District. The principal river of the District, the Seonath or the Seonadi flows across it from its south-western margin to the north-eastern corner (810 ft. or 246.9 metres M.S.L.). The river enters the plain near Khujji and receives its main tributaries, the Tandula, the Kharun and others from the south. The streams joining it from the west and north-west are quite large in number but are much smaller in size and volume of water. The Sonbarsa, the Amner, the Sorhi, the Karra and the Hanp flow down from the north-western hills and join the Seonath on the left.

The net-work of the streams interwoven with a series of high ground in the broad basin almost cleared of its natural vegetation enables one from the top of high gravel ridges to view a vast span in all directions of the compass. Below the mound an endless succession of small rich fields with narrow earthen banks, broken only by the clusters of mud houses in association with *pipal*, *bargad*, *nim* or a mango grove on the lower slope is the common sight of the plain. Greenery abounds in the farms, farmyards and even the slopes of the mounds during the rainy season but after the crops have been cut the whole scene is covered by the deserted fields. With the increasing scorch of the sun the summer uncovers the barrenness of reddish *bhata* land on the tops of mounds, the dry beds of streams and dusty *rawans* (parallel grooves caused by the cart-wheels) tracking to the waving horizons of the undulating plain. Cattle herds are seen grazing on the upper slopes of the *bhata* near the much eroded *nala* bank or below the bunds of small tanks which are dotted all over valley.

The soil cover of the ground is generally shallow but thicker on the banks of the streams. The tops of the mounds have *bhata* land with abundance of

smooth rounded gravels, so caused by the excessive rainfall and leaching of the soil on such lands. The margins of the streams where sluggish water settles during the floods have *Kanhar*, rich black soil with fine gradients. However, the *nala* banks also suffer, at places. with eroded land and the deposits of sand, alkaline gravels of decomposed limestones and smoothened pieces of quartz and sandstones. Generally the yellow, porous and sandy soil known as *Matasi* and *Do-rasa* (*dorsa*), a combination of yellow and black soil, are found on the gentle slopes below the *bhata* land. The newly deposited silt is known as *Kachhar* and if available on the stream bed is called the *Pal*. Larger portions of land surface in the Chhattisgarh Plain is covered by the black-soil, the area between the Kharun and the Seonath being the finest. Paddy is the most common crop of rainy season, spring or cold-weather crops occupying a considerable proportion in the north-east of Bemetara tahsil. Bhilai, Nand Katthi and Arjunda tracts lie on the watershed between the Kharun and the Tandula-Seonath System. Most villages in these tracts lie high and have wide spreads of gravel, with some patches of *Matasi* or *Kanhar* soil. The villages in the narrow strips along the Seonath and the Tandula consist generally of a black-soil tract, fringed by higher ground receding from the rivers. The southern plains are also fertile but are closely fringed by the forests of Dondi-Lohara. Sanjari and Khujji on the west.

The Southern Plateau

In Southern and South-western part of the District are the lower extension of Bastar Plateau interspersed by a few hills. It lies at an elevation of about 381.0 metres (1,250 ft.) and is covered with Mixed forests except along with rivers and streams.

The hills of the region extend from the south, on the ridges between the rivers, and gradually merge with the plain in the north. The central ridge between the Kharkhara and the Tandula is important for presence of Rajhara hills of iron ore (1,919 ft. or 584.9 metres). The ridge is most prominent in the south, the peaks of Dongar Bor (2,297 ft. or 700.1 metres) and Kauchar (2,211 ft. or 673.9 metres) rising about a thousand feet (304.8 metres) from the surrounding country. East of the Tandula the highest peak is 1,960 ft. (597.4 metres) high near Markatola while the one above the Reservoir is only 1,402 ft. (427.3 metres). Between the upper stream of the Seonath and Mohla to Manpur track the hills are highly eroded and have radial drainage. A few peaks in these hills are above 609.6 m. (2,000 ft.) from the Mean Sea Level. The water-parting line between the Godawari and the Seonath-Mahanadi Systems is a low semicircular col passing through Mohla, Gotatola and Kauchar in the south-western part of the District.

The proportion of cultivated land is small in the Southern Plateau but where the soil has accumulated along the small streams. it is sufficiently rich to provide food for a settlement. The forests and mineral reserves are now being developed in this part as also the system of motorable roads. Manpur

and Aundhi areas are still supposed to be far off places with little economic or cultural development.

The Maikal

The eastern range of the Satpura is known as the Maikal range. Its southern extension is locally called the Saletekri and it marks the north-western boundary of Durg lashing with Balaghat District. In Balaghat several of its ridges extend on the Baihar Plateau but the eastern most ridge scarps to the east, facing the Seonath valley and lies within Durg District. The water-shed line between the Seonath and the Wainganga also runs from north to south within the District boundary, which is marked by a few streams on the west. The extent of the Range in the District is about 177.0 km. long and between 16.1 to 40.2 km. wide. The range is covered with thick forests throughout the chain. It opens only to the south of Dongargarh and the hills die out near the Great Eastern Road. A large number of streams cascade to the plain of the Seonath in the east and several others flow to the Wainganga in the west. All these streams remain dry during most part of the year but carry large silts and cause soil erosion on the hill slopes. On the report of the Engineers of Hirakud dam on the Mahanadi soil conservation scheme has been taken up in this area to check the silting up of the Dam. Agriculture and settlements are sparse and mostly isolated in this long belt and the longest agricultural strip is marked along the Banjar *nala* which forms the western boundary. Communication is very difficult in this physiographic division and the only road crossing the Maikal range north of Dongargarh is Kawardha to Mandla road which passes through the Chilpighat.

DRAINAGE

The General slope of the District is towards the north-east in which direction the major stream, the Seonath flows. The south-western part of the District is drained by the Kotri Nadi which flows into the Indrawati River in the south. The rivulets on the western slope of the Saletekri (Maikal range) drain a narrow strip of land about 16 km. wide along the north-western boundary and join the Wainganga in the west. The Kastur *nala* north of Aundhi also flows into the Wainganga. The Indrawati and the Wainganga form parts of the Godawari Drainage system. The Seonath forms part of the Seonath-Mahanadi Drainage system. The drainage in the whole of the District is the result of long erosion of the old hard masses and is well established except on the shallow alluvium along the Seonath itself whereby a few *Sarars* (ox-low lakes of Motinala near Sonesarar, etc.) and slight deviations in course of the river are marked, e.g., near Rudgaon, Biharaghat (21° 36': 81° 32'), Balodi (21° 15': 81° 17') and Kotri (21° 24': 81° 21'). The pattern is mostly dendritic.

The Seonath

The river rises from a hill, 626.4 metres (2,055 feet) high at 20° 30' N.

and 80° 40′ E. near the south-western boundary. The river flows to the north for about 40.2 km. of its early course and bends to the east, from near Ambagarh Chanki. It then flows to the north-east in a zigzag manner and passes through the outskirts of Khujji, Rajnadgaon, Durg, Dhamda and Nandghat. It is joined by the Kharkhara and then by the Tandula, the largest of its tributaries from the south in its course, between Rajnandgaon and Durg. The Kharun which marks a large portion of the eastern boundary also joins the Seonath from the south, about 8.0 km, above Simga (Raipur District) and about 49.9 km. above Nandghat. After its confluence with the Kharun, the Seonath forms the boundary between Durg and Raipur for 64.4 km. Beyond Amlidih (opposite Baitalpur) it leaves the District and flows to the east between Bilaspur and Raipur until it joins the Mahanadi, close to Seorinarayan.

The western and north-western tributaries of the Seonath in the District are the Sombarsa, the Amner, the Surhi, the Dotu. the Karua and the Hanp. All these rivers rise from the Maikal range and flow through the north-western part of the Seonath valley. The Maniari, the Arpa and the Lilagar join the Seonath from the north in Bilaspur District. The Sombarsa and the Amner join the Seonath opposite Nankatti. Khairagarh is located on the bank of the Amner. Gandai and Deokar are the two big villages on the south bank of the Surhi Khamaria and Dasrangpur are the big villages on the Karra (an up-stream of the Dotu) and the Karua, respectively. The Hanp joins the Seonath a few kilometres above Nandghat. Among the northern tributaries, the Arpa is the most important for it passes through the town of Bilaspur.

The total length of the Seonath is 354.1 km. (220 miles) of which about 289.7 km. (180 miles) lie in Durg District. It is greater in length than Mahanadi before its cofluence with the river. It is also superior in the size of catchment area. The bed of the Seonath is sandy for most of its length, but near Simga and Harenga it is rocky. Its greatest width is about 1·2 kilometres. The banks at many places are from 6.1 to 9.1 metres (20 to 30 feet) high. The river swells after heavy or continuous rains in the upper reaches and also floods the low-lying areas on the concave side of its bends. The fields and villages are also flooded sometimes near the confluence of streams with the major river for the main torrent of the river blocks the incoming water of the tributaries at such occasions. The zigzag course of the river is gradually being straightened at places, by the short-cut routes adopted by the flood waters. Similarly the tributaries of the river also open out extra channels at their mouth for discharging their water. Such features are clearly marked near the mouth of Motinala (21° 1′: 80° 11′), Mohara, Bharregaon and Bothli to the east of Rajnandgaon and on the mouth of Som barsa. The damage caused bywaterlogging during the floods is made good in the following agricultural season by a rich hervest for the soil is enriched by the deposition of silt.

The *Pal* or the alluvial deposit on the bed of the river is the most desired piece of land for dry season cultivation. Melons and cucumbers are grown on the sandy stretches of the river-bed near villages and crossings of cart-tracks, on one hand, the river poses difficulties of communication across it, particularly in the rainy season and on sticky black soil in certain partson the other. The roads along the river have been constructed from Simga to Bemetara, Deokar and Dhamdha and from Rajnandgaon to Ambagarh-Chauki all on the harder convex sides of its bends whereas the more fertile and populous parts of the country lie on the concave sides of its bends where sticky black soil prevails. The Rajnandgaon water-works taps water from the Seonath.

The Seonath is crossed by the South-Eastern Railway, about 5 km. west of Durg and again near Garha between Raipur and Bilaspur. The river has also been crossed by roads between Rajnandgaon and Durg, Rajnandgaon and Lohara, Durg and Dhamda, Simga and Bemetara and Simga and Nandghat.

The tribal story of the origin of the Seonath is that there was a Gond girl named Shiva, whom a Gond boy carried off, with a view to marrying her after the *Bandhori* (Rape) form of marriage which was then in fashion among the Gonds. On the girl's refusal to marry him the boy killed her and threw her body into a ravine and from this the Seonath began to flow on somebody's loud call for the girl.

The Tandula

The Tandula rises from the hills to the north of Bhanupratappur in Baster District. After a course of 3 kilometres it enters the District and flows to the north. On its 34th kilometre it is joined by the Sukha river on the right bank near which place both of these rivers have been dammed jointly above Balod and Adamabad. The Tandula Resevoir extends into two connected triangalar areas along the original streams above the dam. The Tandula canal takes the water of the dam and irrigates the eastern part of the Plain lying between the Seonath and the Kharun. It also supplies water to the Bhilai Steel Mill and the township. The river joins the Seonath about 13 km. south-west of Durg. Other important villages on its banks are Dondi and Gunderdehi. The total length of the river is about 96.6 km. (60 miles). Most of its bed is sandy and its banks are low.

The Tandula is named after *tandul*, rice, because it is said that a Gond once, in the remote past threw, a dam across the river and grew 162 hectares (400 acres) of rice under irrigation below the dam.

The Kharuna

Being an important river of the District its upper stream, the Chorha *nala* rises near Petechua (20°35'N:, 81°18'E) in the south-eastern part of the District.

It flows due north to join the Seonath and forms the boundary between Durg and Raipur Districts for about 80 km. in its central and later courses. The total length of the river is about 120.7 km. Its bed is generally rocky and water is available in the pools and the dwindled stream even in the summer. It passes about 6.5 km. west of Raipur and supplies water to the Water works of Raipur. It has been crossed by the high bridges of the South-Eastern Railway and the Nagpur-Sambalpur National Highway both, at Kumhari. Near its junction with the holy Seonath at Jamghat is a temple of Seonath where an annual fair is held. The valley of the river is very fertile, mostly occupied for paddy cultivation and irrigated, by the Mahanadi canal on the east in Raipur District and by the Tandula canal in the west, in the tahsils of Sanjari Balod, Durg and Bemetara.

Tanks and Reservoirs

The people of the area held it sacred and found it beneficial to create tanks and wells. Most of the Plain area is dotted allover with tanks which are generally used for bathing and drinking, for cattle and human beings. The use of tank water for drinking purposes has been causing repeated epidemics in the past. Now some villages prefer the wells for drinking water. Wherever possible tank-water is also used for irrigation. The hilly areas depend upon the stream water. The water from the rivers and streams is used even on the plains all over the District but there is a paucity of tanks in the northern part of the plain. Among the larger tanks, Tandula is the most important and has already been described. Barhi to the south-east of Balod, Ghina to the south of Arjunda, Maroda to the east of Durg and Khapri are other large tanks which supply water for irrigation to the low-lying villages through the canals.

The area of some of the tanks and reservoirs are as follows.

1. Tandula Reservoir—1,761.3 hectares.
2. Khapri tank--451.6 hectares.
3. Daritola tank—94.3 hectares.
4. Hatgahan tank—137.6 hectares.
5. Bahera tank—60.7 hectares.
6. Shahaspur tank—40.9 hectares.
7. Tappa tank—47.7 hectares.
8. Shahaspur--Lohara tank-43.7 hectares.
9. Sarada tank—409.1 hectares.

Groundwater

The whole District is practically a hard rock area where development of water resources principally lies in utilising surface water, e.g., from rivers,

ponds, reservoirs etc., Ground-water potentialities are limited and water is tapped by digging deep wells in such areas where ground-water may be stored along cracks, joints, crevices, etc., in the hard rock and in the weathered zone.

The Durg town is situated on undulating ground. Below a soil cap, varying in thickness from 3.6 to 75 metres there is compact, grey and mottled limestone. The source of water supply for Drug (20°01′: 81°17′) is the Sheonath river, about 4 km. from the town. It has a good flow of water throughout the year. It is subject to heavy floods every year, the high flood-level reaching the edge of the town.

GEOLOGY

The geological formations met with in the district are as follows:

Recent		Alluvial soils
Pleistocene		Older alluvium, gravel and laterite
	Unconformity	
Upper Cretaceous to Lower Eocene	Effusive flows	Deccan Trap
	Unconformity	
Upper Pre-Cambrian to Lower Palaeozoic	Lower Vindhyan (?) System	Raipur Limestone
	Unconformity	
Upper pre-Cambrain	Cuddapah System	Chandarpur conglomerates, grits, quartzite and sandstone
	Unconformity	
Upper Pre-Cambrian to Pre-Cambrian	Effusive and Intrusive Rocks	Rhyolite, Porphyritic and metamorphosed; felsite; andesite, porphyritic, non-porphyritic and amygdaloidal;andesitic tuff and agglomerates; conglomerates intertrappean shale, siltstone and grit; diorite; porphyries; dolerite, epidiorite and amphibolite etc. partly belonging to the Dharwar described below:
Pre-Cambrian	Dharwar System (Sonakhan beds-Sakoli Series ?)	Meta-sediments, meta-volcanics and meta-intrusives-Soft clay slates and argilites, shale, grit, quartzite, phyllites, micaschists and banded hematite-quartzite, hornblende schist, compact siliceous hornstone; and fine amygdaloidal felsites with bands of conglomerates, etc.
Archaean		Granites and gneisses.

Stratigraphically, the District, a part of the Peninsular 'Shield' area,

composed of geologically ancient rocks of diverse origin, most of which have undergone much crushing and metamorphism. The Archaean rocks are predominantly granitic and the granites and gneisses belonging to this crystalline complex have originated through different processes of granite intrusions, regional metamorphism, metasomatism, etc., at different origenic cycles. Large areas to the west and south-west of the District are covered by these rock types. Over these ancient rocks lie the Pre-Cambrian and later sediments and sheets of horizontally-bedded lavas of the Deccan Trap formation. The older alluvium, gravel and laterite belonging to the pleistocene period and the recent river alluvium and soils occupy small areas of the District.

Archaean

The older gneisses are fine-grained, well-foliated, biotite gneiss, and the younger a coarser, more acid, granitoid and porpyritic biotite gneiss. The younger porphyritic gneiss forms a large bathylith, occupying the uplands bounding the Chhattisgarh plain in the eastern portion of the District, and extending northwards into the Mandla District, where it disappears under the Deccan Trap, to reappear further north as the pink porphyritic granite of Jabalpur. It may well belong to the Hosepet or Bellary suite.[1] Considerable portion of the District around Dongargarh and south of Manpur is covered by a coarse porphyritic pink granite which passes locally into syenite. This granite may be intrusive into the Dharwar schists.[2] or a product of granitisation of post Sakoli age.[3] The usual constituents of this granite are pink, white and greenish felspars, and quartz with small ragged crystals of hornblende, and biotite. Veins of epidote are also frequent. Dykes of eurite or cryptogranite, basic and ultra-basic rocks, long veins of brecciated quartz and jasper, some containing galena and flourspar are found frequently within this granite.

One such sheer zone extends S.S.W.—N.N.E. for about 22.5 km. from south-east of Khursipur (12°3': 80°15') to Dongargaon (21°12': 80°23') while another is found extending over 20 km. from Kotnapani (21°10': 80°39') in the north to Lamtidongri (21°02': 80°37') in the south through Chandidongri (21°55': 80°38') containing workable flourite deposits.[4] Huge dykes of breccia-ted quartizite, extending in a north-westerly direction fans across the granitic gneisses and prophyries. The cracks in them are generally filled with secondary veins and crystal aggregates of quartz. The marginal chilling of granite to a quartz porphyry has been noted in several areas, but the clearest one is the granite porphyry junction in the bed of the Seonath river north of Darke (20°44'; 80°38'). An analysis of quartz porphyry of the Durg District proved to be almost identical with analysis of the well known quartz porphyries from Glancoe and Arran in Scotland.

1 Edwin. H. Pascoe, A Manual of the Geology of India and Burma, Vol. I, 1950, pp. 168-169.
2 M.S. Krishnan, Geology of India and Burma, 1960, p. 127.
3 Indian Science Congress Abstracts, 1957, p 172 and Journal of Science and Engineering Research, Vol. 1, No. 2 and Vol. 2, No. 2.
4 Indian Minerals, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 193-194.

There are occasional bands of fine-grained rock, of the same composition; in them, and occasionally in the coarse rock, foliation is seen, with a very general vertical dip and N.W.—S.E. strike. West of this granite is found an assemblage of conglomerates, grits, quartzites, sandstones, shales, rhyolites, andesites, tuffs, agglomerates, and veins and dykes of quartz, diorite and dolerite. Pre-Cambrian Dharwars, and the effusive and intrusive rocks.

The group of rocks, typically developed in the Sonakhan hills in the northern part of the Durg District, and called the 'Sonakhan beds' of the Dharwar System by F.H. Smith (1899) is strikingly similar to the Chilpi Ghat and Sakoli Series. They are steep-dipping, highly, crushed and schistose rocks which pass under the almost horizontal Cuddapah rocks of the Chhattisgarh basin. Folded and crushed into the gneisses, the Sonakhan out-crops branches southwards into several fingers which extend into the surrounding gneiss. No definite sequence has been made out in these beds, which are all more or less vortical. Crushing and the intrusion of numerous trap dykes have intensified metamorphism in places, and the rocks vary from soft clay slates and argillites to compact siliceous hornstones and fine amygdaloidal 'felsites', with bands of conglomerate and boulder beds, and local subordinate bands of quartzmagnetite schist.

North-South hill ranges are formed of the compact felsites which appear to pass into extremely fine, silky hornblende schists. The intermediate valleys are filled with the softer clay slates, with occasional bands of quartz schist and veins of quartz. The boulder beds consist of compact siliceous and trappean matrix, through which are scattered boulders upto 0.6 m. diameter, of all kind of gneiss, granite, syenitic diorite and serpentine, as well as pebbles of jasper, flint and banded hornstone; in places the crushing has been so great that the pebbles have been drawn out into lenticular masses of broken fragments.

Much interbedded trap occurs amongst the Sonakan beds, bands of compact andesite and diabase extending frequently along their strike; these are not to be confused with the dioritic dykes, which are subsequent to and irregularly intrusive towards, both the gneiss and the Sonakhan beds.

The andesites are green coloured, massive aphanitic rocks, porphyritic, non-porphyritic and amygdaloidal in texture. Andesites occur as a synclinal outlier west of Mangikhuta (21°10'; 80°32').

The dykes and sills of diorite,diorite-porphyry and metadiorite with doleritic texture and marginal chilling, appear to be hypabyssal phase of the andesites. Small discontinuous doserite dykes have occasionally been noticed cutting through the granite and the trap,

The rhyolites are grey, pink or pale coloured aphanitic rocks which sometimes show planers or swirling flow layers, the strike of which varies from N—S to N 30° W and the dip from vertical to 60° to the E. or W. There exist all gradational varieties between rhyolities with no phenocrysts of quartz and felspar. Rhyolite occurs around Jhara Makka (21°0': 80°42') and Shakaritola (21°14': 80°38'). The rhyolitic conglomerate occurs as narrow bands near Khairbana (21°5': 80°31'). Folded rhyolites appear to be transformed into coarse grained granites, through the porphyritic to microgranite stage. The different stages of alteration are recognisable in the field and under microscope. Coarse grained granites include both porphyritic and non-porphyritic types. A major part of the area is affected by folding and faulting. The fold axes have a general NNW—SSE trend.

The banded hematite quartzite is a remarkably hard and tough rock composed of interbanded layers of dark ferruginous and light siliceous materials. The proportion of the two components of this rock is variable. All gradations can be seen between grey quartzites, sparingly striped in them. Rich iron-ore bodies have been found in association with the banded hematite quartzite at Dhalli-Rajhara area.

The buff shall overlying the hematite quartzite is a soft, laminated and crumbling rock. It becomes increasingly metamorphosed towards the west. The volcanic formation over-lying these sediments is mainly composed of metamorphosed basalt. In that Kumakasa plain in the east the metabasalts are thin and denudation has often exposed the underlying hematite quartzites. At the western margin of the volcanic series agglomerates occur abundantly. At places the original basalts are metamorphosed to amphibolites, hornblende-schists and chlorite-talcschists.

The Sonakhan beds resemble the Dharwars of south India. The position of these beds beneath the practically horizontol shales and quartzites of the Chhattisgarh Purana (Upper Pre-Cambrian) basin, is strongly reminiscent of the succession in northern Andhra Pradesh and southern Maharashtra. This resemblance is enhanced by the fact that the alternating shales and quartzites of the younger formation in the Chattisgharh basin are succeeded by a calcareous series of shales and limestones (Raipur limestone) many of which are indistinguishable from members of the Kurnool and Bhima formation (Lower Vindhyan) of southern India.

Recently an attempt has been made by Dr. Sarkar (1957-58) to classify the Pre-Cambrian rocks of this area which are grouped as 'Dongargarh System' and thought to be much younger to Sakolis which are dated 1,434-1,630 million years. The System has been sub-divided into two Series-Nandgaon and Khairagarh, below and above the Dongargarh granite, the Nandgaon orogeny intervening in between. Khairagarh Series consists of andesites, intertrappean shales and silt-stones, ferruginous orthoquartzites, agglomerates,

sand-stones and conglomerates followed by Khairagarh orogeny (600 million years) and intrusions of quartz veins with silicified fault breccia, hypabyssal diorite, pyroxenite, porphyrite and acid porphyrite. Khairagarh, accordingly is distinctly pre-Cuddapah and post-Nandgaon in age, and the Dharwars representing relics of a continental nucleus of about 2,500 million years or older age.[1]

Cuddapahs and Vindhyans

The Chandarpur series is composed of conglomerates, grits, quartzites and sandstones. Lying unconformably on the pre-Cambrian in the north of Sanjari tahsil are extensive horizontal beds of gritty and conglomeratic quartzites believed to be the basal beds of the Cuddapah formation and fine purplish sandstone with spots of green chlorite and pink to buff shales. These pass upwards into finely laminated soft shales. They are exposed on the horse-shoe shaped hill range near Karutola (21°8′: 80°32′). The Chandarpur rocks vary in thickness from 61 m. to 305 m. The overlying Raipur Limestone beds may be even of Lower Vindhyan age.[2] The limestones are compact, thickbedded and sometimes slaty, the latter grading into shale. The beds are unfossiliferous.

Deccan Traps

These consist of several flows of basalt. The trap rocks predominate in the north-western part of the District with occasional Intra-Trappean sedimentarian on Lameta group.

Laterite

It is mainly found capping the Deccan Trap. It also occurs at places over the ferruginous shales, epidiorites, etc. Boulders and pebbles of laterite occur in high hills near Bhave (21°31′: 80°45′). Laterites bauxitic at places, occur also at Kesmarda (22°20′: 81°12′), Rabda (22°26′: 81°10′), Bangaora (22°27′: 81°08′), and ridge south of Akalbaria (22°12′: 81°02′).

Earthquakes

The district lies in the 'shield' area of the Peninsular India which is outside the main seismic belt of the country, i.e., the Himalayan Zone. However, slight tremors are sometimes felt when major earth-quakes originate in the Extra-Peninsular region of India. The District was within the boundary of the scismic area for Cutch earthquake of 16th June, 1810, which was one of the most severe and destructive earthquakes on record in India. The main focus of disturbance was near Cutch and the shock extended right over the north of India. The District experienced shocks of intensity, isoseismal IV (Mercalli scale), in the southern part of the District and isoseismal V

1 Abstracts, XXII International Geological Congress, India, 1964.

2 Edwin H. Pascoe, op. cit., p. 170.

(Mercalli scale) in the northern part of the District. During the Bihar-Nepal Earthquake of 15th January, 1934, the shocks were rather strong with rattling of doors, ringing of bells and stopping of clocks. The acceleration was 50 to 100 mm. per second.

Economic Minerals

Arsenopyrite

Lenticular deposits rich in arsenopyrite are reported in felsite near its junction with the granite batholith, south of Handitola (20°49′: 80°39′). None of these were large enough to be of economic importance.

Bauxite

Bauxite occurs at several places in the District. The major occurences are at Kesmarda (22°27′: 81°12′) and Rabda (22°26′: 81°10′), where a total of minimum 0.7 million tonnes of reserves are expected. The other minor occurrences are at Moranda (22°29′: 81°11′), Bangaora (22°27′: 81°08′), Chandra (22°23′: 81°08′), plateau west of Rajadhar (22°14′: 81°03′) and east of Daldal (22°24′: 81°10′), and ridges south of Akalbani (22°12′: 11°02′) and west of Parjujhola (22°04′: 81°02′), where a few thousand tonnes are expected in each deposit totalling minimum about 0.2 million tonnes. The available analyses show most of these bauxites contain more than 50% A-L_2O_3, SiO_2 varying between 7.14% to 10.52%.

Building Material

The limestone is now being extensively used for building purposes, in particular, a dark bluish limestone from Sikosa for flooring. In the Archaean tracts there are gneisses and granites, many of which would form excellent polished ornamental stone, e.g., some of the porphyritic rocks. Dark calcareous shales associated with limestones are found at Dharia (21°30′: 81°01′), Silpat (21°30′: 81°02′) and Kondka (21°31′: 81°02′). The flaggy shales are quarried and easily dressed into slates for using as tiles, both for flooring and roofing. Occurrences of flaggy, calcareous shale are reported from Anjur (21°01′: 80°58′) Chorda (21°02′: 80°57′) and Rampur (21°03′: 80°38′) for use as building stone. The Deccan trap and epidiorites also make good road metal. Horn stones and tuff materials might be used for sharpening and polishing purposes.

Clays

White clays are found at several places in the Cuddapah shales and as alteration products in the granites, flestiles and porphyries. White clay is seen east of Hithapahar (20°40′: 80°53′). It is free from grit, plastic and resistant to heat upto 1,400°C. The product of weathering of the felsitic rocks in the District, is also a good plastic clay which, however, gives greenish vitreous product on heating to 1,400°C. The best occurrence of this type of material is between Jungera Kalan and Bhandaritola in the Sanjari Balod tahsil. There

is an occurrence of china-clay at Bhooritola. It has the following composition compared to that of crude kaolin shown along side.

		Crude Kaolin
SiO_2 (Silicon Oxide)	67.00	62.40
Al_2O_3 (Alumina Oxide)	23.46	26.51
Fe_2O_3 (Ferric Oxide)	1.14	1.14
Ti O_2 (Titan Oxide)	0.10	—
Loss on ignition	4.70	8.80

An occurrence of white clay has been found in shallow diggings east of Danitola (20°41′: 81°08′) on the eastern side of the the motor-road. This is probably the leached alteration product of the granite. The exposure is limited and yields rather inferior quality materials. West of Markakasa (29°59′: 80°32′) white clay occurs in the felsitic rock. Kaolin formed due to the decomposition of felsitic and porphyry is extensively excavated for local use in the area west of Chandia (20°53′: 80°54′). White clays are also found near Harratola (20°54′: 80°43′), Bandarmota (20°12′: 81°05), Charbhata (21°06′: 80°34′), Musalijole (21°03′: 80°34′), Dhaba (21°05′: 80°51′), Kohka (21°04′: 80°51′) and Markatola (20°34′: 81°23′). The Dhaba deposit is estimated to yield about 2, 105,000 tonnes of clay. Small occurrences of greenish clay are recorded near Karelagarh (21°27′: 80°48′) and Dabka (21°24′: 80°58′). Buff or yellow clay has been recorded at Panikibhat (20°49′: 81°27′) and Kosagondi (20°50′: 81°27′). The reserves are estimated at 300,000 tonnes.

Copper Ores

. Encrustations of copper-carbonates (malachite) have been found in the galena-quartz vein traversing the gneisses near Chicholi. Similar traces were found in a quartz vein at Warar-band (21°04′: 80°50′).

Fluorspar

Fluorite is found in small quantities in the galena-quartz veins west of Chicholi. The most promising occurrence is at Chandidongri, the fluorite content varies upto 85%. A reserve of 0,5 million tonnes of flouritic rocks of average grade 16% CaF_2, for a strike length of 330 m. down to a depth of 75 m. (246 ft) has been recently estimated by the Geological Survey of India and the Hindustan Steel Ltd.[1]

A detached isolated hill to the north, known as Grahamata hill, also contains fluorite, such as that found at Kotnapani. The reserves are estimated at 150,000 tonnes.

1 Indian Minerals, Vol. 19, No. 2. pp. 193-194.

Iron ore

Iron-ore deposits are confined to the Dalli-Rajhara range of hills in the south western part of the District. The average results obtained for the surface samples, from the Rajhara hills, were as follows:—

Fe-66.35%; P-0.058%, SiO_2–1.44%; Mn-0.15%;

while for the cores the average results were Fe-68.56%; P-0.064%; S-9.071%; SiO_2—0.71% and Mn-3.175%.

The available information on the reserves of ore in the former Dondi-Lohara Zamindari area are as follows.—

Location	Reserves (m. tonnes)	Percentage of iron.	Remarks
Rajhara Pahar	7.62	68-69	Ore proved to 45.72 metres thickness.
West of Rajhara, Pahar (20°34': 81°06')	38.10	67	Thickness of 45.72 m, assumed
Peak 1990 south of Jharandalli (20°34': 81°04')	24.38	69	,,
Kondekasa (20°35': 81°04')	25 40	68	,,
Ridge 2156 south of Kondekasa	20.32	66	,,

South and south-west of Jharandalli the banded hematite-quartzites of the Iron-ore series are exposed. The ore is mostly hematite with traces of megnetite. A band of hematite is seen in the ferruginous quartzite occurring in the hill called Chaweri about 1.6 km. west of Bandha (21°59': 81°06'). Another small band of hematite has also been reported from the western side of a *nala* running west of the former hill. Laterite ore occurs in the neighbourhood of Jurlakhar (21°30': 80°48'). At Chutrala (21°34': 80°56') iron-ore occurs as nodules of hematite derived from ferruginous Chilpi sandstone. Lateritic ores are worked at Kumi (21°35': 80°52'). Iron-ore also occurs in lateritic deposits to the west of Worar (21°04': 80°53').

Deposits of ore were found by P.N. Bose[1] at Magarkund in Gandai ex-zamindari, at Chutrala, Kunri and Basantapur in Thakurtola ex-zamindari, and near W..rarbandh. At Magarkund the ore worked was red haematite occurring as in the alluvium. At Kunri the ore was of considerable extent and occurred in lateritic beds overlying black basaltic rocks; which appeared to be intrusive in the Chilpis. Four specimens of the ores from Dalli, Chutrala, and Wararbandh were analysed by E.J. Jones of the Geological Survey, who found that they yielded from 53 to 72 per cent of iron, those from Dalli being the

1 Records of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. XX, Part 4, 1887.

richest. Dalli is most advantageously situated as regards the supply of water several springs in the neighbourhood yielding it in a very pure form. The ores have been worked in open furnaces by indigenous methods, being mixed with charcoal in the proportion of one part of ore to three of charcoal. Each furnace employed four persons. In the Sanjari-Balod tahsil, 19 of such furnaces were being worked in 1907. The metal turned out by the furnace, Bose states, was refined in an open hearth, and is made into bars called *Chuls*, which were sold to blacksmiths at an average rate of five annas per *chul*. The workers were Agarias, a branch of Gonds.

Lead and Silver

Galena has been known to occur in veins and stringers of quartz at Thelkadand (20°37′: 89°45′). The occurrences are very indefinite and scanty. A picked specimen of the galena yielded 5.82 oz. of silver per tonne Quartz veins with galena have been noticed in the laminated shales at Karamtara (20°41′: 80°48′) in ex-Ambagarh Chauki Zamindari area. Lead has also been reported from the Chandidongri shear zone where a quartz vein has been traced for over a kilometre. The vein contains both galena and flourspar, but the proportion of galena to vein stuff appears to be small. Specimens of ore yielded over 9 oz. of silver per tonne of lead. An outcrop of quartz vein with lead and copper ores occurs in a country of slates and greenstone west of Muhripar (21°21′: 80°52′).

Limestone

The limestone deposits occur between latitude 20°40′ and 21°38′N. and longitude 80°35′ and 82°05′E. (including part of Raipur District). The limestone forms discontinuous patches having practically no overburden. They are usually of a purple colour or sometimes grey and fine-grained, traversed by calcite veins. The beds are mostly rolling, but sometimes show a dip upto 10°. The analytical data show that on the whole the limestones bear very low magnesia and would prove suitable for manufacture of Portland cement. It is estimated that the deposits would yield about 21 million tonnes of limestone.

The limestone in the southern part of the District occurs in two separate horizons, i.e., (1) a lower laminated limestone of a thickness of the order of 300 m. designated as Charmuria limestone, and (2) as bands in a higher shale-limestone formation of a thickness of the order of 450 m. called the Raipur shale-limestone. The limestone exposed at the localities, Arjuni, Bhanpur, Ghorda south of Gundardehi, Khuteri, Limora, Sikosa, Sukhri and Kirngi belong to the Charmuria horizon. The lower part of this formation is indicated as of the Portland cement grade. Samples from Drug (Nawapara) and Khapri indidcate the presence of blast-furnace grade limestone from these areas. The Bhilai Steel Plant of the Hindustan Steel, Limited are having their blast-furnace grade limestone from Nandini to the north of Bhilai.

The Geological Survey of India has estimated a reserve of 28 million tonnes of limestone in Moresara area and of 67 million tonnes in Deorjhal area. Over eight million tonnes of high grade limestone within a depth of 25 m. are reported to occur in one block in Deorjhal area. Larger reserves of this grade are expected to be proved in the adjacent blocks. Near Nandgaon flux grade limestone stretches for about 48 km. between Khalowa and Arjuni.

Dolomite

The dolomite deposits occur near Kodwa (21°37': 81°22') 52.4 km. north of Durg and thereafter extend towards north and east with occasional gaps of several kilometres of cultivated fields. The material is of dull grey colour and medium-grained in texture. Thin veins and small cavities filled with white crystals of calcite are seen occasionally. Analytical results of samples collected show that the dolomite is of flux grade and inferred reserves may be of the order of 2 million tonnes.

Ochre

Red ochre of good quality is obtained from pits in Gandai and Thakurtola ex-*Zamindaries*. Instances of yellow and brown ochreous enrichments have frequently been noticed in the ferruginous shales of the Sanjari-Balod tahsil. Both yellow and brown types have been met with. These are often quite soft and fairly free from gritty matter and may be of use as pigments. The ferruginous shales south east of Kamkapar (20°41': 80°54') are rich in ochreous material. Yellow ochres asssociated with shales occur about 1.6 km. north-east of Garra (21°55': 88°55'). A small patch of good quality red ochre is found 4.8 km. west of Mahua Dhabri (21°20'. 80°44').

Steatite Potstone

A dark coloured rock (Potstone) from near Kilekora (20°41': 81°02') is worked for making pots. It occurs under shallow capings of Cuddapah grit. There exists a flourishing local cottage industry making household utensils and a considerable portion of the deposits is already exhausted.

FLORA

Most of the flora of the Districts has been removed. On the northern plateau the chains and large potches of the forests extend along the south-western and southern boundaries and in three distinct chains extending up to Chauki, Sanjari and Balod, respectively, from south to north. The most compact forest belt extends on the Maikal range along the north-western and western boundaries. More compact forests are managed by the Forest Department as Reserved and Protected Forests. Other forests are the Unclassed forests under the Forest Department or the Village forests shown in Patwari Papers and looked after by the Revenue Department. The total area under the forests is 5,013.6 sq. km. The Reserved forests occupy 197,131.8 hectare, the Protected 192,398.6 hectare, and others 111,461.4 hectare.[1]

1 Tables of Agricultural Statistics, Madhya Pradesh, 1964-65.

These forests have been grouped into two Divisions. The old Reserves of Balod tahsil (or Balod range) and the ex-*zamindari* and ex-State forests of the southern plateau, now comprising the forest ranges of Chhuria, Ambagarh-Chauki, Dondi-Lohara, Panabaras and included in South Durg Forest Division. North Durg Forest Division comprises the forests on the Maikal range and is divided in to Dongargarh, Khairagarh, Gandai, Rengakhar, Kawardha and Taregaon ranges.

Classes of forest

Most of the forests are covered under Ecological classes the Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Teak and Mixed, under Champion's Classification. Small areas in the north-west, around Chilpi and Rengakhar bear Moist Deciduous forests to be further classified into *Sal*, Moist Teak and Moist Mixed forests.

Sal, Moist Teak and Moist Mixed forests grow in humid conditions, whereas the rest of the classes of forest occur in sub-humid conditions.

Sal Forest

It occurs in small patches in Chilpi and Rangakhar blocks and also in the valleys, along *nala* banks in the western and north-western parts of Banjari and Daldali blocks. The general quality of the crop is good (C.P. III). The average density of the crop is O. 6. Reproduction is sparse in general

Moist Teak Forest

Owing to slightly higher rainfall and moisture retaining capacity of the soil and sheltered aspects in the localities the type occurs to south of *Sal* Type. It is limited to the parts of Lachhna and Badratola blocks and adjoining areas in Khairagarh and Dongargarh ranges. The trees remain leafless for a short interval resulting in longer season for the growth of trees. The quality class is invariably good, the height of the dominant trees reaching up to 21.33 metres. The teak (*Tactona grandis*) forms from 30 to 40 percent of the tree crop. Bamboo (*Dendro calamus strictus*) forms a thick under storey inhibiting natural reproduction.

Moist Mixed Forest

The type is of limited extent but more extensive than the Moist Teak forests. These are noted in parts of West-Gatapar, Lachhna and Badratola blocks. The ratio of teak is limited. It occurs where the soil is not well-drained. The species met with are similar to those in the Moist Teak forests but with a higher proportion of *saj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *bija* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), *dhaora* (*Anogeissus latifolia*) and *tendu* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*). The crop is of good quality (tree height up to 21 metres) and associated with dense understorey of bamboo which retards seedling. The density of overwood is 0.4 to 0.5.

Dry Mixed Forest

The type is most extensive in the District. It has been further classed as good quality and poor quality forest, quality class has been described in the working plan for Dongargarh and Khairagarh ranges of North Durg Division and the whole of South Durg Division (excluding Balod range).

The good quality Mixed forests are common in the southern regions on the sandstone and also extending on the gneiss. It occupies Dalli block of Dondi-Lohara range, Kalwar and Aundhi blocks of Manpur range, Umerpal, Bhojtola, Boria and Tolang blocks of Panabaras range, Halamitola block of Ambagarh-Chauki range, and Udrichhaper block of Dongargarh range. On the Maikal plateau specially in parts of North and South Baghnadi blocks it occurs in small patches on the lower slopes and in valleys. No species is conspicuous in the overwood. Among the species in the under-storey *garari* (*Cleistanthus collinus*) and bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) are most conspicuous. The lower canopy is dense and helps to weed out grasses. Recruitment of tree species is fair where the canopy is open. The density of the crop is high in Balod and northern ranges.

The forest of Medium quality are limited to Patan block of Ambagarh-Chauki range, South Baghnadi and Chhuria blocks of Chhuria range, Renga dabri-Karmola block of Dondi-Lohara range, Gatapar and Nawagaon blocks of Khairagarh range and Dhara block of Dongargarh range.

The poor quality (M.P. IV-a) forests occupy a bulk of the area in the northern ranges (Taregaon, Kawardha, Rengakhar and Gandai) and northern half of Balod range along the Chandarpur sandstone They also occur in Maneri block of Chhuria range, Khujji block of Ambagarh-Chauki range Sanjari-Banjari, Matrakhujji-Jamnara blocks of Dondi-Lohara range, Nawagaon. Gholia, Bhendra, Deodhara. Banju blocks and Badratola block (Kalagharra plateau) of Khairagarh range and Fatehgarh block of Dongargarh range. In the northern ranges the general density of the crop is 0.5 and the characteristic feature is the presence of *salai* (*Boswellia serrata*) in varying proportion. The bulk of the stems are crooked and there is a general paucity of the reproduction of tree species. Regeneration by coppice is good, and by seedlings fair except when heavy grazing and fires preclude it. In the western (Khairagarh and Dongargarh) and south-western ranges the overall density of the forest is 0.4. The canopy is greatly broken in Bhendra, Deodhara and Banja blocks of Khairagarh range, Maneri block of Chhuria range and Matra Khujji-Jamnara block of Dondi-Lohara range where drier species. like *salai* (*Boswellia serrata*) and *bhirra* (*Chloroxylon sweetenia*) are marked conspicuously. Large areas are either covered with shrubs during the rains.

Dry Teak Forest

Teak (*Tactona grandis*) occurs in small patches in the northern ranges and also scattered in Mixed forests, particularly in Thakurtola and Gandai

ex-*Zamindaries*. Most of the crop is young to middle-aged. In Balod range large patches of teak occur on Chilpi sand-stone beds. The quality is fair with good conditions of regeneration from seed and stool. Best teak occurs in Magardha and Malegaon areas where it is associated with bamboo in the understorey.

In the western and south-western ranges the teak has been classified into good quality and medium quality forests, sub-divided into areas with bamboo and *garari* (*Cleistanthus collinus*). Teak forests are always in patches in the well-drained, sheltered and favourable areas. Good quality teak occurs in parts of Halamitola black of Ambagarh-Chauki, Dalli and Jamri blocks of Dondi-Lohara range, Barid block of Panabaras range and Udrichhapar block of Dongargarh range. Medium quality teak forests occur in patches in North Baghnadi block of Chhuria range, Amgaon, Munjal and Bondipatal blocks of Ambagarh-Chauki range and Tinsamali and other eastern parts of Khairagarh range. The understorey is usually occupied by bomboo or *garari* or both which keep the grass under control but inhibit natural recruitment of tree species. The good quality teak forests grow upto 21.5 metres and teak forms between 20 to 30% of the high crop.

Bamboo

Bamboo (*Dendro-calamus strictus*) occurs in all Dry as well as Moist forests except the *Sal* forests. In the northern ranges its quality is fairly good in Daldali block and south-western part of Thakurtala ex-zamindari. It is usually associated with *garari* in the understorey. *Katang* bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*) of planted origin is found at very limited places.

Associate Trees

The *saj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), kauha (*T. Arjuna*), *bahera* (*T. Belerica*) and *harra* (*T Chebula*) are found everywhere. The *saj* pole is preferred for house-building. The *harra* tree yields as fruit myrabolam, in which there is a large export trade. The wood of *karra* (*Cleistanthus collinus*) is very hard and durable. The *dhaura* (*Anogeissua latifolia*), *lendia* (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), *tinsa* (*Ougeinia dalbergioides*) and *tendu* (*Diospyros melanoxylon* are common. The *bija* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) is an excellent wood, next in quality to teak, and is common in all forests; from this tree gum kino is obtained. The satinwood tree *bhira* (*Chloroxylon swietenia*) is very common in the dry forests. The *shisham* (*Dalbergia latifolia*) like the *kamar* (*Gmelina arborea*), does not grow to a very large size. The *kusum* (*Schleichera trijuga*) is a very good hard wood, spared for the propagation of lac. The wood of the *haldu* (*Adina cordifolia*) is used for making combs. The *aonla* (*Phyllanthus emblica*) gives a good strong pole, and the sour fruit is used medicinally. The *amaltas*, locally known as *dhanbohar* (*Cassia fistula*), is a handsome tree better known as 'the Indian laburnum', with its clusters of golden yellow flower which appear in April and May. Of the less

useful timber trees may be mentioned the *salai* (*Boswellla serrata*) and *gindol* (*Sterculea urens*) which are very common in most of the dry stony forests. The silk cotton tree or *semar* (*Bombax malabaricum*), with its brilliant red flowers which appear in March, is a very striking tree when in flower. Another common flowering tree is *ganiar* (*Cochlospermum gossypium*). The Acacias are represented by three well-known species-*babul* (*Acacia arabica*), *pandari babal* (*Acacia leucofloea*) and *khair* (*Acacia catechu*). Khair is essentially a forest tree with excellent wood. The most important product of this is the resinous extract known as catechu or *kattha*. The *rohni* (*Soymida febrifuga*) is a good tree with strong wood found in the forest on *kanhar* soil. The *bel* (*Aegle marmelos*), confined more to the outskirts of the forests, yields a fruit. *Kaith* (*Feronia elephantum*) is only found in village lands and on deserted sites in the forest. Of the Bauhinias there are many species, the best known being (*Bauhinia variegata*). It is also grown in some village gardens. Another variety *amti* (*B. retusa*) is fairly common. It yields a clear gum resembling gum-arabic which is used medicinally and for making sweetmeats. The *ghotia* (*Zizyphus xylopyrus*) is used as firewood. The figs are well represented and are found generally in the open. The *gular* (*Ficus glomerata*) can be easily distinguished by its light blueish green foliage. The sacred *pipal* (*F. religiosa*) comes next. The gasti, (*F. infectoria*) has small yellowish white berries when ripe, of which green pigeons are very fond. The *kumbi* (*Careya arborea*), grows everywhere in the forests in the better soils; the inner bark is said to be very good for the manufacture of paper.

Small Trees

Of the smaller tress and shrubs the Gardenias are represnted by four species: *kharar* (*Gardenia turgida*), *dongar kuru* (*Gardenia latifolia*), *kuru* (*Gardenia lucida*) and *dikamali* (*Gardenia gummifera*) The gum obtained from the last two is collacted from the leaf bunds and is called *dikamali*, it is used as a medicine for sores. Allied to the Gardenias are two common small forest trees, *manhar* (*Randia dumetorum*) and *telka* (*Randia uliginosa*). The latter is found in all water-logged rich soils and in forest glades The *tilai* (*Wendlandia exserta*) during March, is covered with white flowers which are very sweet-scented. The *palas* (*Butea frondosa*) better known as 'the flame of the forests', is a very handsome tree when in flower; lac is grown on it and the roots are also used for making rope fibre There are numerous Grewias in the forest, the best known of which is *dhaman* (*Grewia Asiatica*); the wood is sometimes called 'the Indian lance-wood' and is largely used by the villagers for their *kawars*, or sticks which are balanced on the shoulders and from the ends of which bundles are suspended. The fruit of all the Grewias is eaten, and the bark is used for fibre.

Shrubs

Of the smaller shrubs, the *dhamani* (*Woodfordia floribunda*) is a handsome plant when in flower in March. The *atain* (*Helicteres isora*) is a shrub

with a hazel-like foliage, red flowers and twisted pods; a very good fibre is obtained from the bark. A strikingly handsome shrub is the *ghirgholi* (*Indigofera pulchella*); in February it is covered with a mass of rose purple flowers. The *magordatta* (*Mimosa rubicaulis*) is found in sandy places bordring the forest.

Climbers

The large climbers are well represented in the forests, and mention may first be made of *sihari* (*Bauhinia Vahlii*), known commonly as *mawal*. It yields a coarse fibre, the seeds when roasted are eaten, and serviceable indigenous umbrellas are made from the strong, tough leaves. The common climber known as *konderbel* (*Spatholobus roxburghii*) does much damage to the forest trees. The *bodal* (*Butea superba*) has *palasshaped* flowers. The *makoi* (*Ziziphus nummularia*) has numerous wait-a-bit thorns along the stems; the small black fruit is largely eaten by the people and by birds. The *pethori* (*Zizyphus rugosa*) is a less common climber. The *chil* (*Acacia caesia*) and *Acacia pinnata* are two large climbers in all dry forests; the latter only on the forest soils. The *keonti* (*Ventilago medraspatana*) is a large climber found along the banks of streams on the outskirts of the forest. On the edge of the forest in sandy or laterite soils, is also found the large climber called *dhamas* (*Combretum decandrum*).

Of the smaller climbers may be mentioned the *apeng* (*Calustrus paniculata*), an extensive climber; the oil obtained from the seed is much valued for rheumatism. The *chersing* (*Ichnocarpus frutescens*) is an extensive climber found only on the outskirts of poor forests. The *ram datun* (*Smilax macrophylla*) is a very common climber in *sal* forests. The *karawa* (*Capparis horrida*) is found in some village sites climbing over large trees. The *dasmur* (*Asparagus racemosus*) is fairly common in all forests.

Parasites

The parasites are represented by *banda* (*Loranthus longiflorus*), which grows very commonly on *mahua* and *chur* (*Viscum articulatum*) is allied to the English mistletoe, and is generally found on *tendu*. The *amarbel* (*Cuscuta reflexa*) is principally found on the *ber* with its long golden thread like stems.

Palm

The common palm of the District is the small date palm. *Chhin* (*Phoenix acahlis*) is found all over the forests growing on poor soils. *Phoenix sylvestris* is found growing round tank banks.

Lilies and Orchids

With the commencement of the rains a number of lilies and orchids begin to flower, the most common among the former being a species of *Amaryllis*. *Crynum ensifolium* and *Costus spinosus* both with white flovers are also

common. Of the ground orchids the Habenaria is represented by two species, both with white flowers. The chief tree orchids are *Vanda roxburghii* which is very common, the flowers of which are pretty and at times scented, and the cats-tail orchid (*Vanda blumii*). On the sandstone plateau is a small plant, characteristic of the very poor soil found on it, *Sclaginella rupestris*. Where this plant grows, grass is not even found; it is only green during the rains and up to November, after which it curls up, though the roots remain green through the hottest weather.

Grasses

The District contains a great variety of grasses, only a few of which are utilized for thatching. Owing to the large quantities of available rice straw, grass is not reserved for the purposes of fooder. The only two kinds removed for thatching are *gandri* and *sukla*, the others being considered inferior. *Gandri* (*Iseilema* laxum) is also the most valuable grass for fodder- The spear grass, is found in abundance all over the District *Dhander* (*Iseilema Wightii*) is somewhat similar to *gandri*. It is a good fodder for cattle and horses, found in rich soils. *Safed kusal* (*Andropogon annualatus*) is found growing with gandri; it is a good fodder grass, also cut for thatching. *Tewa* (*Anthistiria imberbis*) is a fair fodder grass growing on sandy soils in flat ground. *Dubi* (*Cynodon dactylon*) is a small sea-green coloured perennial grass, the stems creeping along the ground root. *Gatia* (*Andropogon pertusus*) ranks next to *dubi* as fodder grass. It found on moist rich soil, and grows from one to two feet high. *Sawan* (*Setaria glauca*) grows near villages during the rains; the grain is used as food by the poorer classes. *Kansi* (*Saccharum spontaneum*) is a noxious deep-rooted weed, growing along the banks of rice-fields; it is known by its feathery head of flowers; when young it is eaten by cattle. Cows are decorated with it on the Gobardhan (Deepawali) festival, *Latkanu* (*Seturia verticillata*) is a coarse grass growing near villages; it has flower spikes, which when ripe cling to one's clothes. *Orai* (*Andropogan muricatus*) is the well-known *khas* grass, from the roots of which the *khas tattis* are made; it grows near tanks on low-lying ground. It is eaten by cattle and the stiff stems are made into brooms. *Bharru* (*Anthisteria arundinacea, Roxb.*) is a tall grass growing gregariously on wet sandy ground to 4·5 metres in height. Wild buffaloes are very fond of lying up in it; its stems are made into native pens. *Bagai* (*Pollinia eriopoda*) commonly known as *bhabar* grass in the north, is found on poor open soils along broken hillsides and open river banks; its chief use is for rope-making. It is an excellent material for making paper. *Rusai* (*Andropogon schoenanthus*) is easily recognised by the lemon-scented flowers and leaves. It grows on all classes of sandy and laterite soils and along hillsides and is a fair fodder grass when young and readily eaten by cattle. *Hupua* (*Eragrostis interrupta*) springs up in damp rice-fields after the crops have been cut, giving the whole country in February a while appearance *Bendra puchhia* (*Erogrostis major*) is a handsome grass growing in damp places, in fields and gardens. *Bhurbhuria* (*Erogrostis plumosa*) grows on saline soils, drying early in

December: it is a great muisance in the forests, for it is the most inflammable of grasses. *Kanta bhairi* (*Aristida setacea*) is the white spear-grass found on pcor sandy soils; the fine spears over an inch long of a white colour will even pass through leather and the barb gets a hold. *Dhond* (*Anthisteria stringosa*) is a coarse grass, growing from 2·1 to 2·4 metres in height on flat ground. Its only use is to make a course mat for walks.

Trees of Waste Lands

The *bhata* waste is, at present, nearly devoid of all growth except small grasses and stunted *tendu* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) trees. Of the herbaceous plants on the *bhata*, the principal are *gukra* (*Glossocardia linearifolia*), *manori* (*Lapido-ghathis trinervis*), *kusmi* (*Polycarpea Corymbosa*), *chhoti chinaori* (*Indigofera linifolia*), *bhursi* (*Glosogyne penatifida*) and *gudru* (*Alternanthera sessiles*). None of the above is of any economic value, and all have very insignificant flowers.

Plants of Open Fields

Perhaps the most common weed in the cultivated fields is *guraria* (*Sphaeranthus indicus*), and used medicinally as a bitter tonic. Another common weed is *kuthwa* (*Xanthium strumarium*), which may prevent the cultivation of a second crop, but rivals manure in its power of renovating the soil. Other common weeds are the *godna* (*Euphorbia pilutifera*), *ban murai* (*Tridax procumbens*), *aondi* (*Trichodesma indicum*), and *selari* (*Celosia argentea*) a high and very troublesome weed in dry crops. *Agia* (*Striga lutea*), is common. Damp fields are sure to bear *mokla* (*Hydrophilla spinosa*). It is excellent cover for the snipe, but it has stiff spines. The seeds are used medicinally and are called *lal makan;* the leaves and roots boiled in milk are also used as a tonic. Along the embankments of rice-fields and on the moist banks of sandy nullahs there occurs a handsome plant with a peashaped flower, much like the English gorse, called *ghunguna* (*Crotalaria sercea*); it yields fibre.

Village Plants

On nearing the village, numerous herbaceous plants are found, the chief among them being *Sarphok* (*Tephrosia purpurea*), of which the crushed leaves are used as a poultice for eruptions in children. An introduction from America is the *utkatar* (*Argemone mexicana*); the leaves of this plant, crushed and mixed with ground black pepper, make an excellent remedy for itch and the juice is also used in cases of opthalmia. *Gokri* (*Urena sinuata*) is very common so also is *batiari* (*Sida carpinifolia*), the stiff stems of which are used as brooms. Every one is acquainted with the *charota* spinach, of which there are two kinds, *Cassia occidentalis* and *Cassia obtusifolia;* the young leaves of both varieties at the beginning of the rains are made into a curry and eaten. There is a third kind called *bani charota* (*Cassia sophera*), common along the open banks of the rivers. The *memri* (*Ocimum adscendens*) is found occasionally; the juice of the leaves is used medicinally for worms in children, while the seeds,

known in the bazars as *tuk malanga*, make a pleasant cooling drink when soaked in water. Of the smaller herbs we have the *bhurosi* (*Evolvulus alsinoides*), and *Ionidium heterophyllum*. The *bhutla* (*Solanum indicum*) is fairly common. It is used medicinally for tooth-ach, and a decoction of the fruit is given for coughs.

Village Trees

On the village rubbish heap, *Kataili chaulai* (*Amaranthus spinosus*) is common. The *bagnak*, *bichu hathajori* (*Martynia diandra*), an introduction from America, is a rank, coarse herb with capsule beaked with strong-curved spines; it flourishes with *Datura fastuosa* and *Datura stramonium*. The latter is a rank poison, used by professional criminals. Amongst the trees cultivated or otherwise in the village site, may be mentioned the horse-radish tree, *mungi* (*Noringa pterygosperma*). *Basna* (*Sesbania grandiflora*) is a short-lived soft-wooded tree. The *ber* (*Zizyphus jujuba*) is a very common tree in the village and along the tank embankment when found in the forest, it always indicates an old village site. The fruit is eaten and lac is at times cultivated on it. The wood is hard and close-grained. Along hedges and along the entrance to villages *arni* (*Clerodendron phlomoidis*) is not uncommon and the flowers give a pleasant scent for some distance around. Here also at times is found the *gandri babul* or *gand babul* (*Acacia Farnesiana*) with its sweet-scented, deep golden flowers, as also the *sitaphal* or custard-apple (*Anona squamosa*), whose leaves when crushed and mixed with camphor are an excellent remedy for fly-blows in the sores of cattle and other animals. The *nim* (*Melia Azadirachta*) is a common village tree, from the fruit an acrid bitter oil is extracted, which is used medicinally. In most villages *bajranda* or *bagbherenda* (*Jatropha curcas*) an American plant, is used for fencing enclosures; the seed is a strong purgative. The *nagphani* (*Opuntia dillenii*) and kekti, are also used at time for fencing purposes in villages. *Parkinsoniaculeata* is a handsome shrub on sandy soils and in hedges; this plant is an introduction from tropical America.

Flora of the Tanks

Along the edges of tanks, where water has been standing, are found the *dhandhana* (*Sesbania aculeata*), and at times a thistle-like plant with strong bristly spines, called *kanta* (*Echinops echinatus*). Nearly every village tank contains one or the other of the water-lilies known as *kamal* (*Nelumbium speciosum*), the sacred lotus of the Hindus with its large, white, pink, red and blue flowers; the seeds and root-stems are eaten. The *singhara* or water-nut (*Trapa bispinosa*) is arificially cultivated in some tanks; the fruit is largely eaten, both raw and cooked. The most common weed covering the tank and growing under water is the *chela* and algae (*Chara* Sp.). More common than the *kamal* is the *jal* mogra (*Linanthermum cristatum*) with its small, pretty, white flowers, growing out of the base of the leaf and reaching from 7 to 10 cm. above the water. Growing in the bed of shallow tanks we have the *deo dhan* or wild rice of which the ripe seeds in December and January

are collected by the Dhimars in large quantities. Various sedges are also found and at times the common bulrush.

There are a number of excellent groves planted close to villages. These are composed almost solely of mango (*Mangifera indica*), of which the fruit is much appreciated although only the common kinds are grown from seed. Now and again the tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) is also found, but is less common than in some other districts. Of trees confined to road-sides and seldom found elsewhere may be mentioned *siris* (*Albizzia lebek*) and *karani* (*Pongamia glabra*). The latter is practically an evergreen with pretty racemes of pink flowers; oil is extracted from the seed, which is used medicinally, for lighting and at times for cooking. Along the open river beds and banks the characteristic plants are *chhoti ber* (*Zizyphus nummularia*), *phunder*, (*Calotropis procera*) also called *ak*. *Madar* is very widely distributed in all sandy soils. Growing best along the sandy beds of rivers, we have the *jhau* (*Tamarix dioica*), which is a very striking and handsome shrub when in fllower. Should the river bed be stony, *Rhabdia lycioides* at times is found. The well-known trees found on river banks are Exocum and *jal kambi* (*Barringtonia acutangula*), the latter having fine slender racemes of deep pink flowers; the bark is used as a poison for stupefying fish.

Forest Conservancy in the North Durg Division

The forests consist of ex-States of Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, Kawardha and five *zamiddaries*, viz., Gandai, Thakurtola, Sahaspur-Lohara, Barbaspur and Silheti were considerably affected by shifting cultivation. The forests were exploited under a system of licence.

In the year 1934 F.A.A. Hart, Agency Officer, Ranchi, suggested that more valuable forests be surveyed, demarcated and exploited on systematic lines. Between 1936 and 1948 the forests were divided in to blocks and forest blocks of the Kawardha, Chhuikhadan and Khairgarh states were constituted as Reserved Forests. In 1946 regular working plans for systamatic management were prepared for the forests of Khairagarh and Kawardha states by A.B. Lal under Moonay's supervision.

In the year 1948 the forests of these states were taken over by the Forest Department of Madhya Pradesh. A Working Scheme was drawn up for the forests of former Kawardha state, and the five *zamindaris* in 1957. A Working Plan was prepared in 1960 for the forests of former-Khairagarh and Chhuikhadan states.

The *zamindari* forests continued to be unreserved and in a state of exhaustion until 1932 when the reservations were made. The first Working Plan for northern *zamindaries* were drawn up by Longhorn who prescribed improvement fellings for the period from 1933-34 to 1952-53. However, the

working was not carried out according to prescriptions and the *Zamindars* allowed fellings to gain maximum easy money. These forests came under the management of the State Forest Department in 1951 after the abolition of *zamindaries*.

Forest Conservancy in South Durg Division

Forests of South Durg Division consist of Balod range formerly included in South Durg Division, former State of Rajnandgaon and six *zamindaries* of Ambagarh-Chowki, Khujji, Dondi-Lohara, Panabaras, Koracha and Aundhi.

In Rajnandgaon state a forest officer was appointed in the year 1884 but working of the forests continued on the Licence System. After Moonay's inspection and on the basis of his scheme survey and demarcation work was carried out from 1936 to 1944 and selected areas were worked on Coppice System. During the World War II requirements of War Board were fulfilled from the village forests. Lall's Working Plan of 1946 prescribed Selection Coppice and Simple Coppice System for the working of the forests.

Licence system of exploitation was prevalent in all the *zamindaries*. Some curtailment on the authority of the *Zamindars* was introduced in 1907 when some of these were transferred from Chanda (Chandrapur) District. Longhorn's elementary Plan revised the Improvement Fellings System and created Selection Working Circle in Panabaras in 1931 and introduced Improvement Fellings System on a cycle of 20 years in 1935 in Ambagarh-Chawki *Zamindaris* and Coppice-with Standards in Khajji *Zamindari* in the same year. Irregular fellings and encroachment of villagers on the forest land, irrespective of many rules were observed in the remaining of the Zamindaries, viz., Dondi-Lohara, Koracha and Aundhi However, the remote areas still retain natural greenery and could be developed in to graded stocks and perpetual source of forest supplies.

The forest in the south-eastern part of the District are best conserved of all. The first Forest Officer was appointed for the Division (including Balod range) in 1882. A rough working plan by A W. Blant and N.P. Bajpai prescribed Coppice-with-Standard (called Improvement Fellings) in 1893. In 1906-07 coupes were sold standing to contractors and as demand increased they were better worked so that in localities favourably located to markets a few coupes were thoroughly worked.

G. M. Townshend's Plan (1915-16), like the previous one, also failed and was abandoned in 1920 because the felling series and coupes were not laid appreciation of demand. Both, Townshend's Plan and succeeding Plan by E.A. Rooke prescribed Coppice-with-Standards, 10 years grazing closure and full fire protection but the latter plan was subsequently worked on pure Coppice system. This was succeeded by Harlow and Dutts' Plan in 1926. It prescribed

four working circles viz., Low Forest, High Forest, Bamboo and Low Forest unworked. K.L.P. Foster and Baksi's revision for the period 1936 to 1951 prescribed the Working Circles Coppice-with-Reserves, Selection Coppice, Bamboo Overlapping and Miscellaneous.

Centenary of Forest Conservancy

The Centenary of Forest Administration was celebrated in Durg District on 28 January, 1962 at Rajnandgaon. A combined function for both, North and South Durg Forest Divisions, was held. An *Ashoka* sapling was planted in the lawn of Raja Balramdas Town Hall garden. An area of 4.5 hectare was planted with teak in Kawardha range of North Division. South Durg Division also raised teak plantations of 11.74 hectare in Magardah felling series of Balod range and 29.16 hectare in Kanjeli, Badbhum and Aundhi Conservancy Working Reserve.

Game Laws and Measures for the Preservation of Wild Life

The need for the preservation of wild life has been little appreciated by the people. Initiating a step in the right direction the Government of India passed the Wild Birds Protection Act. This was repealed by the more comprehensive Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, (XIII of 1912). There were inherent difficulties in the strict enforcement of the Act. The various measures adopted by the Government to preserve wild life in the tract under review are contained in the Acts and Rules given in the Appendices.

In accordance with Rules for shooting. etc., in the Government forests of Madhya Pradesh, the reserved forests of the tract have been divided into several shooting blocks. They are closed to shooting subject to issue of a permit of the sportsman. Besides these there are some isolated blocks of reserved forest less than 16 sq. km. in area which are surrounded by cultivation in which shooting of carnivora and unlimited number of all games with the object of crop protection is permitted subject to the object of crop protection, and issue of a permit by the Divisional Forest Officers concerned. For the protected forests no shooting blocks were formed in the past.

The Divisional Forest Officer issues the shooting permits in the normal course specifying the kind and the limit of game which can be shot. The Ruling Chiefs and their families (the *Rajmata*, the *Rani*, the *Yuvraj* and *Yuvrani*) however, enjoy the privilege of free shooting in forests which formed part of their former territories with certain restrictions.

The Rules and Acts in force afford adequate protection to wild life, provided they are effectively enforced. In practice the detection of illicit shooting is difficult. Poaching is common in the accessible regions and the liberal issue of arms licences for crop protection has added to the menace of poaching. As a result of indiscriminate shooting in the past much of the big game has disappeared

and walking through the densest forests one comes across an animal only occasionally.

FAUNA

Wild Animals

Semnopithecus entellus (*Karmuha Bendra*) is found in all the forests and out of it. This monkey is considered sacred. It does great damage to crops, especially to gram and pulse. It can be tamed if taken young. The *Macacus rhesus* (*Lalmuha bandar*) is not found in the District, and can only be seen with show-men.

Felis panthera (*sher, bagh*) is found in the forests of the north and south. Many places, however, that were a sure find for tiger, now have none. This is especially the case in the Banjari forests of the District. Forests of Gatapar, Lachhna and Badratola are its favourite haunts. It is destructive to cattle as well as to game, but seldom to man unless wounded. Of late years there have been no really bad man-eating tigers in the District. Tigers wander a good deal in the cold and rainy seasons, while in the hot weather they select some special spot with water handy, where they lie up during the heat of the day. They do not attain any special size in the District. a good average being 2·9m. between pegs, for a male. They mate during two seasons of the year, October and November in the cold weather, and again in April and May Gestation takes about 8 months in each case. They usually have from one to three cubs. The cubs remain with the tigress till very nearly full-grown, and a case has been known where after the tigress and a female cub had been shot, the male cub was taken charge of by the tiger and brought up in the way he ought to.

Approximate numbers of tigers and panthers and areas mostly frequented by them in the ranges of North Durg Forest Division in 1960 are given below:

Ranges	Tigers	Panthers	Areas
Dongargarh	12	15	Bortalao, Raniganj
Khairagarh	18	20	Lachhna, Gatapar Malaidah
Gandai	10	12	Salewara, Markatola
Kawardha	10	15	Sarodha, Rajadhar
Taregaon	8	12	Daidali, Mahli
Rengakhar	15	25	Roll, Rai., Chilphi, Rengakhar
North Division	73	99	

In the South Durg Forest Division their numbsr is negligible except in the Candrapur border.

Panthera pardus, the panther (*tendua, chitwa*), is found in great numbers all over the District where there are forests. It varies a good deal in size, and this has led to the belief, rather unscientific, among the natives of their being of two different kinds. Panthers are more numerous, much more sneaking and very much bolder than tigers coming right into the village and carrying off dogs and goats. A man-eating panther is a much greater a curse than a maneating tiger, as he can climb a tree or *machan* and take the men out while watching their fields at night. The panther is sometimes killed by wild dogs.

Acinonyx Jubata, Schreber, the hunting leopard (*chita*), is common in the District frequenting both forest and open grass country, and is very destructive to the smaller game, such as peafowal, partridge, hare and all ground game. The leopard cat, (*Felis bengalensis*, Kerr.) a very shy retiring animal, is also found in the dense forests, but is very uncommon.

Viverra Malaccensis, the lesser Indian civet (*bignaori*), is fairly common in the District. It feeds on small birds and animals.

Herpestes edwardsi, Geoffrey. the mangoose (*newara*), is very common throughout the District, it is not shy and will often enter village huts in search of food, and is very destructive to poultry. These animals are easily tamed and make nice pets. The brown jungle mongoose (*sambar newara*) is uncommon and only found in the dense jungles. The tree or fruit cat is not common in the District. It lives in the hollows of old trees. Though feeding on fruit, it is very destructive to birds; A case is recorded where one fruit cat killed 46 pigeons in a night in the pigeon house, almost every bird having its head bitten off.

Lutra lutra vulgaris, the Indian otter, is not common as the rivers have little water in them during the hot weather. A few are found in deep pools of the Seonath river and some mountain streams.

Hyaena striata, the striped hyaena (*rerwa*) is nocturnal in its habits, feeding chiefly on carrion, but will at times carry off dogs and goats; it has also been known to kill cattle tied up for tiger.

Canis lupus, the Indian wolves (*hundra*), are more numerous in this District than in Raipur, keeping to more or less open country cut up by nullahs. They do a fair amount of damage to sheep and goats while out-grazing, and occasionally carry off children. Seldom more than two are seen togather, the packs having been broken up.

Canis aureus, the jackal (*kolhia*), is very common. In does not live in dense jungle. Jackal's collective howling is heard in the night in the villages of open country.

Cyon dukhunensis, the Indian wild dog (*kogwa*), is found in all the forests of the District. It is most destructive to game, which it drives away from any neighbourhood it may haunt at the time. Cattle are also killed by these wild dogs, and not unfrequently the sportsman finds his ties for a tiger killed and eaten by the pack. Tiger and leopards have also been known to have been killed by their packs. They always hunt in packs, moving about large tracts of country in search of game under a recognised leader. The wild dog is always fierce, even in his puppy day, and has never been known to become tame. Wild dogs seldom live long in captivity. Owing to the urine being very acrid, they always have a most disagreeable smell which the skins retain sometimes for years. It is surprising that so few are killed in the District, considering the high Government reward offered.

Vulpes bengalensis, the Indian fox (*khekri*), is found in all open parts of the District. It feeds chiefly on small birds and animals. It is a fine little animal, and has been known to become tame in captivity. It affords a good run with dogs in the open country, but is not such a good stayer as the jackal.

Melursus ursinus, the Indian sloth-bear (*bhalwa*), is found all over the forests of the District, generally living in caves in the hot and wet weather, and in heavy grass and bushes during the cold weather. In the *mahua* and *ber* seasons, one often comes across them feeding under the trees or on their way back after their night's feed. In his movements the *bhalwa* is very ungainly, but when disturbed can get over the country at a good pace. They are often met with in twos and even threes mother and cubs, or a she and he bear together. On these occasions it is most amusing to see how when one is wounded, it at once tackles its neighbour, the two having a regular set-to enabling the sportsman at times to get both. The skin of the bear is at its best during the hot season but is difficult to cure owing to the fat which even penetrates the skin. Though shy of man, the bear can be a nasty customer when wounded, as besides using its teeth it makes most ghastly wounds with its hind claws. A she-bear with cubs is also formidable if met at close quarters. The female generally has two cubs born in January or February The cubs if captured young become very tame.

Lepus ruficaudatus, the Indian hare (*lamha, bhathela*) is found in all forests of the District, especially in rainy season in bushes when they are more or less infested by the grub of a species of bot fly.

The District, besides being infested with the common house-rat and mouse, has three kinds of field rats. one of which being rather large and resembling the Jerboa rat is much appreciated by the villagers as food. These rats are dug out of their holes along field bunds. The shrews are represented by two species, the house-shrew living in houses commonly known as the musk-rat, and the jungle shrew of a brown colour living in hollows of trees; this last animal makes a delightful pet when tamed.

Seiurus palmarum, the common house squirrel (*khurari*) though found all over the District, is not common. It can be tamed easily when taken young and makes a nice pet.

Sus cristatus, the Indian boar (*baraha*) is found all over the District, and is very destructive to crops. The flesh is poor, but much appreciated by the villagers who prefer it to that of any otherkind of game. There are some fine boars in the forest, but owing to the bad riding ground, pig-sticking cannot be enjoyed. It is a singular and intresting feature to find a boar-hunt with spears depicted in the panels of an old temple at Deo Baloda, indicating that the local people once enjoyed this sport. Near Deo Baloda the ground is level and exceedingly suited for the pastime. The boars have, however, now disappeared from that locality.

Gazella bennetti, the Indian gazelle (*chinkara*) is only found in the forests to the south-west of the District.

Antilope cervicapra, the black buck (*hiran*), is not common. A few are found in the north and the west of the District, while stray animals turn up now and again in the open country. The heads are small, not running over 45 centimetres.

Boselephus tragocamelus, the *nilgai* (*rojra*, *rojhina*) is fairly common both in the open and dense forests of the District especially in the former. It is generally found in small herds, seldom singly, but a grizzly old buck may at times be seen wandering about.

Tetracerus quadricornis, the four-horned antelope (*charsinga*), is common in all forests where the grass is heavy. It is a shy animal, and owing to its keeping to the grass, is difficult to get a shot at.

Cervulus muntjac, the muntjac or barking deer (*bhasera*) is not common, and is confined chiefly to the *sal* areas. It does not associate in herds; it travels singly, or the stag and hind may be seen together with the young As venison the muntjac is the best of all the Indian species of deer.

Axis axis, the spotted deer (*chital*), is very common in all the forests of the District. It associates as a rule in herds. Preferring open forests on the outskirts close to water, it falls an easy prey to the village *shikari* as he sits over a water-hole. The horns are shed in July and August, but this shedding is extremely irregular.

Cervus duvanceli, the swamp deer (gauni), is not very common in the District. The belief is that a large number of the gauni in these parts are a cross between *sambhar* and real swamp deer may be true as the length and

thickness of horns and the colour of the animals are slightly different to those of the ordinary swamp deer of the *Terai*. Gauni associates in herds but odd males may generally be picked up in the forests.

Cervus unicolor, the *sambhar*, is found in all fairly thick forests. The mature stag is shy and is seldom found with the does except at night and early morning when feeding. During the *mahua* season, one or more stags may be seen in the early morning feeding under the trees where the flowers have dropped during the night. Does and small stags very often herd together. The stags shed their horns in April, but this is not general, and some may be found with their antlers throughout the year. Good heads are seldom found in the District.

Birds.

There is a fair number of game birds in the District, but few are found in large numbers.

Pavo cristatus, the common peafowl, is found in all the forests of the District. The red or common jungle cock (*Gallus gallus*) is only found in the far south of the District where it occurs in fair numbers. Two kinds of spur-fowl are found: *Galloperdix spadicea*, the common spur-fowl, is found in all forests in pairs, while the painted spur-fowl (*Galoperdix lunulata*), a shyer bird, is found only in certain stony localities. The painted francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*) is the common partridge of the District, the grey *Francolinus pondiceriana* being very uncommon and only found occasinally in the west of the District. *Pterocles exustus*, the common sand-grouse, is not common in the District. *Pteroloculurus exustus*, the rock or painted sand-grouse, is found in pairs along open fire lines and among rocks it is fairly common.

Perdicula Asiatica, the jungle or bush-quail, is very common. Two other species of bush-quail are also found. Throughout the rains and cold weather black-breasted or rain quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*) is found in the open country, while with the beginning of the cold weather we get the grey quail in small numbers, but they only stay a short time in the District. The common bustard or button-quail, *Turnix Dussumierii*, is common in the jungle grass tracks of the District.

Eupodotis Edwardsii, the *ubara* (*hum*), though not common, is at times met with in the grass *bhata* plains. The green pigeon (*Treron phornicoptera*) is found all over the District, while *Columba livia intermedia*, the blue rock-pigeon, is not so common, and is met with only at times.

Water Birds

Although there is a large number of tanks, their size being small, the ducks are not in preponderance in the District. Of the migratory ducks, the

gadwall and blue-winged teal are the most common; the red-crested pochard, the pintail, the gree-winged teal, the white-eyed pochard, and the widgeon are also found. Of ducks that remain all the year round, *Sacridiornis melanonota*, the spurred goose or *nukta*, *Anas poecilorhyneha* the grey duck, *Nettapus coromandelianus* the cotton teal, and *Dendrocygna vanica* and *D. bicolor*, the whistling teal, all occur in fair numbers; the last two build nests in trees during the rainy season. *Podiceps minor* the dab-chick, is common and found in all tanks.

Gallinago caelestis, the common snipe, though a winter visitant, is found in fair numbers along the beds of some of the tanks. *Gallinago gallinulla*, the jack snipe may be picked up in a day's shoot. *Rhynchoea bengalensis*, the painted snipe, remains throughout the year and breeds in some of the reedy tanks. In birds other than game birds the District is quite rich.

Fishes

The numerous inland waters of Durg District in the form of rivers, irrigation reservoirs and village tanks and ponds are boons to the local people. They provide a large scope for vulture fisheries, and are known to represent nearly 36 species of fishes, some of which are culturable and commercially important.

The fish fauna inhabiting the local waters are described under the following sub-headings.—

Carps

Among the carps, the following species inhabit the local waters.—

Potis, (*Labeo fimbriatus*), Kannach (*L. Calbasu*), *L. Pangasia*, bata (*L. bata*), borai (*Cirrhina reba*), kotra (*Barbus sarana*), kotei (*B. stigma*), jarhi kotri (*B. ticto*), dandawa (*Danio sps.*), sarangi (*Chela bacuila*), chilbati (*Rohite cotio*), and mohrani (*Rasbora rasbora*).

Out of the carp varities available kotra (*Barbus sarana*), kotri (*B. stigma*), Jarhi katir (*B. ticto*), dandawa (*Danio sps.*), sarangi (*Chela bacaila*), chilhati (*Rohite cotio*) and Mohrali (*Rasbor rasbora*) are noticed abundantly. Major carp species like catla (*Catla catla*), rohu (*Labeo rohita*) and mirgal (*Cirrihina mrigala*) though witnessed in a few big irrigation reservoir are very poorly represented. They are also noticed migrating and are caught in the Shivnath river during monsoon period in the first few floods by the local fishermen.

Predatory Fishes

Predatory fihes prefer earnivourous diet and prey upon carp, fry and fingerlings cultivated in the tanks, thereby taking a heavy toll of carp fish seed. Fishes of predatory habit represented in the waters of this District are as follows.—

Sanwal (*Ophiocephalus marulius*), bhunda (*O. amphibius*), khokhsi (*O. striatus*), khokasi (*O. punctatus*), sighan (*Mystus seenghala*), tengana (*M. vittatus*), tengna (*M. cavassius*), parhan (*Wallago attu*), bolia (*Callichrous bimaculatus*), siland (*Silondia silondia*), kokia (*Rita rita*), bod (*Bagarius bagarius*), moongri (*Clarias magur*), singhi (*Heteropneustes fossilis*), patola (*Notopterus notopterus*), vedo (*Nandus nandus*), khudwa (*Gobius giruis*), bam (*Mastacembelus armetus*), bami (*M. pancalus*), jatbami (*Rhynchobdella acuelata*) and dudum (*Amphiphous cuchia*).

Weed Fishes

Several species of small fishes belonging to different families are collectively known as "Weed Fishes". These fishes not only compete for food with the cultivated major carps fish-seed but also directly feed upon them and therefore are highly undesirable in aquiculture like the unwanted weeds in agriculture. The weed fishes commonly met with in the local waters are species of *Barbus*, *Chela*, *Ambassis*, *Gohius*, etc.

Economic and Uneconomic Varieties

The major carp fishes like Catla, Rohu and Mirgala for their high cultural value are not very common contributors in the fish population. Some predatory fishes which are of lesser culturable value are.—

Sawanl (*Ophiocephalus marulius*). bhunda (*O. amphibious*), khokhsi (*O. striatus*), khokhasi (*O. punctatus*), sighan (*Mystus seenghala*), parhan (*Wallago attu*), bolia (*Callichrous bimaculatus*), siland (*Silondia silondia*), and moongri (*Clarias magur*).

Fishing Methods

The various indigenous types of fishing devices in use in the District for catching fishes are described below.

(1) Kadia and Chhirha (Drag Nets)

The net is used in large streams and tanks for catching big fishes. Two ends of the net are taken from different directions towards one central point, the fishes being driven by beating the water so as to drive the fishes in the direction of the net where they are caught. The net is provided with indigenous types of floots on the head rope sinkers or the bottom.

(2) Chani and Uphala (Drag Nets)

The mode of operation is similar to the first and is used for catching local minor fishes.

(3) Pal and Long Nets

The *pal* and long net are secured at both ends with pegs like a tennis net. Fishes are driven towards it and then caught by throwing a *mahajal*.

(4) Cast-Net (Sokhi or *Bhanwar Jal*)

The *sokhi* or *Bhanwar Jal*, is a cast net. It has iron weights attached to it, and is thrown in the water so as to enclose a circular space about 2·4 to 3 metres in diameter. The outer end through out the circumference has lining or loose netting, which collects all the fish falling within the circle when drawn in by the rope attached to the centre of the net.

(5) Pailna or Small Net (Scoope Net)

The *pailna* or small net is used chiefly for taking prawns and small fishes. It is a handy net fastened to a triangular frame.

(6) *Halka Jal* or Frame Net

The *halka jal* or frame net is something like a large netting basket, the mouth being about 2·1 to 3 metres, stretched by two bamboo pieces crossing each other diagonally. The mouth is placed to the water which is then beaten with sticks. The fishes run in to the net and are caught.

(7) Hariyal or Cone Shaped Bamboo Net

Hariyal is placed over clustering site of small fishes, but only one or two are caught at a time.

(8) Danwar Net

Danwar is a baited net, night or day, with several hooks attached to one string.

(9) Dhir Net

Dhir is a bamboo wicker work placed at the opening of the field.

(10) Khandi Net

Khandi is a cage-like bamboo trap resembling a mouse-trap, lets in fish and prevents their egress. The smallest-sized meshes in the District are so-close from knot to knot that it is impossible even for the smallest fish to get out of these traps At the close of the rains when the waters subside fishes are caught by the method known as *ulechna*. Women partition out shallw water with mud bund, and with a basket throw out water from one compartment to the other. When one compartment gets very shallow they catch the fishes without difficulty.

The indigenous type of contrivances generally suit fishing in relatively smaller pieces of water of village tanks and ponds. Improved method of fishing by the use of gill-nets prepared from synthetic fibres are introduced for larger waters like irrigation reservoir and tanks in view of their easy operation, lesser requirement of manpower, etc. The gill-nets on operation hang vertically

in the water in stretched condition and the fishes of one side are trapped in the meshes of the net by their gill portion.

Aquatic Animals.— Otter is the only mammal found in the rivers.

Aquatic reptiles.— Tortoise and water snakes are found in the rivers and *nalas*. Crocodiles are found in the Seonath.

Amphibia.— Several types of frogs and toads are found all over the District. Crabs are found in the holes of field bunds and rock holes in the rivers.

Aquatic insects.— Bug, beetle, water scorpion, water stick insect, etc. are found in the waters of the District.

Mortality Caused by Reptiles and Wild Animals

During the period of 11 years from 1955 to 1965 the numbers of deaths caused by reptiles and wild animals are 469 and 50, respectively, in this large District. The largest number of deaths occurred in the area of Manpur Police Station. Similar hilly and forested tracts lying in contiguity, the areas of Chowki, Dondi-Lohara, Gurur and Arjunda Police Station Houses recorded 25 to 30 deaths. Other Police Stations with records of high incidence of snake-bite deaths are Bodla, Kawardha and Khairagarh along the Maikal range in the north-west. In the plains such deaths are recorded only casually. Most of the snake-bite deaths occurred in the months from May to October, September recording the highest figure. During the remaining six - months of the year only 22 percent of such deaths was recorded January is the month of lowest incidence, the snakes being the cold-blooded creatures biologically and their movements being very restricted during the cold season.

During the same period of 11 years records show that persons have to be more cautious of the fatal attacks by wild animals in the Bodla and Rengakhar areas. The highest number of deaths was caused by the wild animals in the moths of June and August. December marks the second highest figure.

CLIMATE

The climate of this District is characterised by a hot summer and well-distributed rainfall during the south-west monsoon season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The colo season commences from December and lasts till the end of February. The period from March to about the middle of June is the hot season The south-west monsoon season which flows, lasts till about the end of Septemeer. October and November constitute the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the District are available for 17 stations. Durg has records for about 100 years, while the records for the other stations are available for lesser periods. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the District as a whole are given in table 1 and 2. The average annual rainfall in the District is 1,270.0 mm. (49.99"). The northern parts of the District in general get less rain than the southern parts. The rainfall in the District varies from 1,108.8 mm. (43.65") at Kawardha near the northern boundary to 1,434.3 mm. (56.47") at Ambagarh Chowki near the south-western boundary. About 86 per cent of the annual rainfall in the District is received during the monsoon months June to September, July being the rainiest month. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is not large in the District. In the 50 year period 1901 to 1950 the highest annual rainfall amounting to 144 per cent of the annual normal was recorded in the year 1919. The lowest annual rainfall which was 53 per cent of the normal occurred in 1902. In the same period the annual rainfall in the District was less than 80 per cent of the normal in only 4 years, none of them being consecutive. Considering the annual rainfall at the individual stations also, the consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once at 6 out of the 17 stations and 3 consecutive years once at Khairagarh only. It will be seen from table 2 that the annual rainfall in the District was between 1,000 and 1,500 mm. (39.37 and 59.06") in 40 years out of 50.

On an average there are 63 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm., 10 cents or more) in a year in the District. There is not much variation in the number of rainy days in general though this is lowest at Khapari, being only 55.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at a station in the District was 359.4 mm. (14.15") at Dongargarh on 1959, August, 1.

Temperature

There is no meteorological observatory in the District. The description which follows is based on the records of the observatories in the neighbouring District where similar conditions prevail. From about the beginning of March temperatures begins to rise steadily till May which is the hottest month. The mean daily maximum temperature in May is about 42°C. (107.6°F.) and the mean daily minimum about 28.0°C. (82.4°F.). The heat in summer is quite intense and the hot dust-raising scorching winds add to the discomfort. The day temperature on individual days during the period April to the early part of June goes up to about 46° or 47°C. (114.8 or 116.6°F.). Afternoon thunder-showers which occur on some days bring welcome relief though only temporarily. With the on-set of the moosoon by about mid-June there is appreciable drop in temperature and the weather becomes pleasant. After the withdrawal of the monsoon early in October there is a slight increase in the day tempe-

rature but the nights become progressively cooler. After October both the day and night temperatures decrease rapidly till December which is generally the coldest month. The mean daily maximum temperature in December is about 27°C. (80.6°F.) and the mean daily minimum about 12.5°C. (54.5°F.). During the cold season cold waves associated with the passage across north India of western disturbances sometimes affect the District and on such occasions the minimum temperature drops down to about 3° or 4°C. (37.4 or 39.2°F.).

Humidity

During the south-west monsoon season the relative humidity is generally high, exceeding about 75 per cent. Humidity decreases in the post-monsoon season. In the cold season it is fairly dry over the District. The driest part of the year is the summer season. with the humidity in the afternoons going down to 25 per cent or less.

Cloudiness

Skies are generally heavily clouded or overcast during the south-west monsoon season. In the latter half of the summer season and in the post-monsoon season skies are moderately clouded. During the rest of the year they are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds

Winds are in general light to moderate in the District with some slight strengthening in force during the monsoon season. Winds in the post-monsoon and winter seasons are from directions between north and east. In March winds are variable in direction and by April south-westerlies and westerlies begin to appear and these predominate from May to the end of the monsoon season.

Special Weather Phenomena

Storms and depressions originating in the Bay of Bengal during the monsoon season after crossing the Orissa coast move in a westerly direction. Such depressions affect the District and its neighbourhood causing widespread heavy rain and strong winds. Occasionally storms from the Bay of Bengal in October may also affect the District. Thunderstorms occur frequently during the period from March to September. Occasionally dust-storms and dust-raising winds affect the District in the summer season.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

No systematic work on archaeological finds appears to have been done so far in this District nor do we find any tradition. The absence of archaeological finds, other tell-tale records, or legendary and traditional history makes an inquirg into the ancient history of Durg impossible. All that could be done in this direction is to gather shreds of such historical evidence connected with Southern *Kosala* or surrounding districts like Raipur, Bilaspur and Chanda, presuming that the area under Durg must have shared their history, having been carved out of them.

The evidence of the existence of "Quartzite men" has been discovered in this region. The earliest known inhabitants who have left their industry in the District belonged to the Neolithic group. These Neolithic men knew the art of pottery and cave paintings. They cultivated land, tended domestic animals, produced fire by friction, spun cotton or wool and followed the practice of burying dead bodies These Megalithic tombs are generally known as Dolmens. A few large vertical Dravidian tomb stones surrounded by stone circles or heaps of stones resembling cromelechs and arranged in rows are found in Sorar and the adjoining villages of Chirchari, Karhibhadar, Majhgahan and Kabrabhat of the District. Such tomb-stones, apparently belonging to the Dravidian tribes, are found in large numbers in Chhota Nagpur region of Bihar and Assam.[1] Similar tombs are found in Nagpur Division of Maharashtra, with this difference that there in no central stone in them At village Dhanora, (20°40'N and 81°23'E), these Megaliths lie in a group of nearly five hundred.

Broadly speaking these Megaliths can be grouped into four types:—

(i) Apsidal stone enclosure with a cap stone lying flush on a heap of cairn

(ii) A similar enclosure with a menhir at the centre, the height of which ranges from 3 to 4 feet

(iii) Alignment of apsidal stone enclosure like type (ii), occurring in groups of five to seven

(iv) Huge menhirs kept in position by means or buttresses of large boulders

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1 Drug District Gazetteer, 1910, pp. 48-49.

Excavation was carried out in this area by the Department of Archaeology, Madhya Pradesh, under Dr. M.G. Dixit, in order to ascertain their natural and possible connection with the other Megaliths of India, specially those of the aboriginals of Bastar. So far only four have been unearthed in the operation, three of type (i) and one of type (ii). The pits gave out a few fragments of skeletal remains and beads and glass bangles but no pottery. One of the tombs contained a copper vessel, traced by its outline, left in the soil. The capstones measured 10 to 12 feet in length, 4 to 5 feet in width and 2 to 3 feet in thickness.[1]

Some iron implements with pieces of thick earthen jars have been unearthed near these tombs at village Karhibhadar. These graves belong, probably, to the beginning of the First century A.D., when Buddhism was popular in the District, as indicated by the discovery of a stone with Pali character.[2]

In ancient times Durg was a part of *Dakshina* or Southern Kosala. What was the exact relationship between this Kosala and its northern name-sake with its capitals at Ayodhya and Shravasti is not known. From the epic episode, however, of the marriage of king Dasharatha of Uttara Kosala with Kausalya, a princess of another Kosala, some scholars think that Southern Kosala might have been a colony under the northern Iksvaku dynasty of the *puranic*[3] fame.

From the historical point of view on the other hand, it is clear that this region was not penetrated by the Aryans till the 6th century B.C., because the place does not find reference in Panini's *Astadhyayi*, giving a geographical account of some of the places in India in the 6th century B.C. It is only in Katyayana's *Vatrikas* (commentary) on Panini that we know of the Southerners of Pandya, Chola and Kerala countries in the 4th century B.C.[4] Thus, in all probability, the region covered by the modern District came under Aryan domination sometime during the intervening period.

Asoka, who adorned the throne of Pataliputra in the 3rd century B.C., carved out an empire stretching from the Himalayas to Mysore State.[5] The Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang who visited Southern Kosala in the 4th century A.D. found an Asokan tope in the capital city.[6] It is, therefore, apparent that the District was included in Asoka's vast empire. The history of Kosala may even be pushed further back to the pre-Mauryan period by referring to the rule of king Nanda over the people called the Gangaridae and Prasii, that is, the inhabitants of the Ganges valley and the easterners known as the Kosalas, Panchalas and Sura Senas.[7]

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1. Indian Archaeology A Review, 1956-57., p. 35.
2. Drug District Gazetteer, pp 48-49.
3. The Classical Age, p. 218.
4. The Vedic Age, p. 313.
5. R.S. Tripathi, History of Ancient India, p. 85.
6. Thomas Watters, On Yuan Chawan's Travel in India, pp. 200-201.
7. R.K. Mookerji, Chandra Gupta Maurya and His Times, p. 35.

The Satavahanas

Four square copper coins, containing elephant symbols of the Satavahana dynasty have recently been discovered in the Mahanadi river at village Balpur of the Bilaspur District.[1] Combining this with the discovery of red pottery from the same site[2] and with Hiuen Tsang's account that a Satavahana king was ruling over Southern Kosala when Nagarjuna Pusa came to live there, it is possible to maintain that the region was included in the Satavahana dominion at least in the second century A.D. It may be mentioned here with advantage that coins of Gautamiputra Yajna Satakarni, who belonged to the last quarter of the second century A.D., have been excavated as far north as in Jabalpur District.[3]

During 1954-55 a hoard of one hundred and thirty-nine copper Indo-Sassanian coins, together with a necklace of debased gold in an earthen pot, has been found in village Sirsa of the District.[4] This discovery alone cannot certainly establish an Indo-Sassanian epoch in the region. The Paikuli inscription, possibly to be assigned to the later part of the 3rd century A.D., refers to the Western Kshatrapas of Avanti, Kushana, Abhira and Saurashtra as subordinate allies or feudatories of the Sassanians. The Sassanian Emperor Hormazd II, (A.D. 301-10) whose coins bear the figures of Siva and his bull carrier, married a Kushana princess and assumed the title Kushan Malkan Malka (Lord of the Kushana rulers).[5] Possibly the District had some common economic interests (if not political) with the Indo-Sassanian people in the 3rd and 4th centuries A D.

The Imperial Guptas

Coming to the 4th century A.D., we get an authentic reference to this tract in the famous Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudra Gupta. It is stated in the 19th line of this epigraphic record that the first two kingdoms which succumbed to the southern expedition of the great monarch were Kosala and Mahakantara.[6] Unlike his policy of only *grahana* (capture of enemy) in relation to the northern rulers, Samudra Gupta treated the Southerners, including Mahendra of Kosala and Vyaghraraja of Mahakantara, with two more of his wise policies, namely, *Moksha* (liberation) and *Anugraha* (to favour by retaining one in his kingdom).[7] Mahakantara, literary meaning a great forest, contained probably, the Sihawa tract of Dhamtari Tahsil, from which a slice has been taken for the formation of the District.

1 Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. IX, Pt I, pp. 31-32; M.G. Dixit, *Madhya Pradesh Ke Puratatva Ki Roopreklha*, p 11.
2 Indian Archaeology- A Review, 1955-56, p. 72.
3 The Classical Age, p. 218; The Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XII, Pt. II, pp. 128-33.
4 Indian Archaeology—A Review, 1954-55, p. 63.
5 The Age of Imperial Unity, p. 152.
6 Fleet, Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum Vol. III, pp. 12-13.
7 R.K Mookerji, The Gupta Empire, p. 20.

Though no attempt was made by the Gupta Emperor to annex any territory south of the Mahanadi to his already vast dominion, the liberated monarchs, who got back their lost territories, must have acknowledged the overlord-ship of the Gupta rulers or at least came under their influence. A great deal of controversy seems to exist over the longevity of the Gupta sway over the rulers of Southern Kosala and other adjacent tracts. The very fact that the Arang Plates of the Sura rulers of Kosala are dated in Gupta era 282 (601 A.D.) or 182 (501 A.D.),[1] in which they style themselves as Maharajas (compare the epithet *Rajadhirajarsi* of Chandra Gupta II in his Udayagiri cave inscription) belonging to a family celebrated for its dignity like that of the royal ascetics (*rajarshitulyakula*), speaks of the Gupta supremacy in this area.

The aforesaid charter was issued by Maha-Bhimsena II who, according to the genealogy given in the plate, was the son of Dayitavarmana II and grandson of Bhimsena I. The latter's father was Vibhisana, grand-father Dayita I and great grand-father Sura, the founder of the family.[2] The influence of the Gupta coin types on the coinage of the south and of the trend of Gupta art on the culture of this region is decidedly more marked than the political sway of the Imperial House over these territories. Fiftyfour gold coins were found in village Kairtal of Raipur District in 1948, bearing the figure of Garuda and the legend Mahendraditya. Some eminent historians think that either these coins were issued by Kumar Gupta Mahendraditya (c. 414-455) himself or by a member of the Sura dynasty on his behalf.[3]

After the discovery of the coins of king Prasannamatra of the Sarabhapur dynasty of Southern Kosala and one of Mahendraditya, some other historians have, however, refused to identify Mahendraditya of the coin type with Kumar Gupta.[4] But the Pitaiband hoard of 40 coins, containing legends of Mahendraditya and Kramaditya (representing Kumar Gupta and his son Skanda Gupta) and discovered in 1960, has once again reaffirmed the political sway of the Guptas in Southern Kosala.[5] The harvest of implements, tools and other objects unearthed in Dr. M.G. Dixit's recent excavation at Sirpur, definitely suggests that the highly skilled workmanship of the artisans of the Southern Kosala was greatly influenced by the late Gupta plastic tradition.[6] The contemporary art and sculptures were equally influenced.

About the middle of the 5th century A.D., probably three Nala kings of Bastar flourished in Southern Kosala. They were Varaharaja, Bhavadatta and Arthapati.[7] Others who held sway over Chhattisgarh during this period were

1 Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XI, Pt. II, p. 109; Epigraphia Indica, Vol. IX, pp. 342-43.
2 Hiralal, Inscriptions in C.P. & Berar, pp. 94-96.
3 Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. X, Pt. II, p 137 and Vol. XI, Pt II, p 109
4 Ibid, Vol. XVI, Pt II, p. 216.
5 Ibid, Pt I, p. 30.
6 Indian Archaeology—A Review, 1954-55, p. 26.
7 Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. X. Pt. II, p. 140.

Harisena and Nagendrasena Vakataka. In the Balaghat copper plate of Prithvisena II Vakatka, his father Nagendrasena (440-460 A.D.) is described as the king of Kosala, Mekala and Malwa.[1] Harisena Vakataka, who also flourished about the end of the 5th century A.D., is believed to have made extensive conquests, including Kosala.

The Sarabhapurias

The Sarabhapur rulers ruled contemporaneously with the Sura kings and afterwards shifted their capital from Sarabhapur to Sripur or modern Sirpur. From the Kurud[2] and Pipardula[3] Plates of Maharaja Narendra it seems that his father Sarabha was the founder of this dynasty, as well as of Sarabhapur City.[4] Probably he is the same Sarabharaja, whose daughter's son Goparaja, died at Eran in 510 A.D.[5] It is quite likely that the Sarabhapur rulers owed allegience to the Gupta Emperors, as it is stated in the Kurud Plate of king Narendra, that the charter was issued to confirm a grant originally made by a Gupta monarch to a Brahmin.[6]

Other members of this family who succeeded, one after the other, to the throne of Sarabhapur were Prasannamatra, the latter's son Jayaraja or Maha-Jayaraja, his sons Pravara I and Vyaghra. Then came Durgaraja and his sons Maha Sudevaraja and Pravararaja II. All these rulers issued a number of copper-plate grants, mostly from Sarabhapur and Sripur, which have been found at various places of the Chhattisgarh region.

The Sarabhapur rulers called themselves *Parambhagavata*. Their emblem was Gaja-Lakshmi, which is engraved on the seals, attached to their charters.[7] From the Mallar Plates of Vyaghraraja, it is known that they belonged to *Amrarakula*.[8] Pravararaja II might have shifted his capital from Sarabhapur to Sirpur.[9] His reign is assigned to the middle of the third quarter of the 6th century A.D.[10]

The Panduvamsis

This region including Durg, thereafter came under the sway of the Somavamsi rulers. It is evident from the Rajim[11] and Baloda[12] Plates of Tivaradeva that

1 R.K. Mookerji, The Gupta Empire, p. 77
2 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXXI, pp. 263 ff.
3 Indian Historical Quarterly, Vol. XIX, pp. 140-45.
4 The Vakataka Gupta Age, p. 86
5 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXII, Pt. I, p 17.
6 Ibid, Vol. XXXI, pp. 267-68; Indian Archaeology—A Review, 1957-58, p. 57
7 The Classical Age, p. 219.
8 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXXIV, pp. 45-48.
9 It may not be quite unlikely that the name Sarabhapura was given to Sirpur by the Sarabhapur rulers to commemorate their victory over this region. See Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXII, p. 17.
10 The Classical Age, p. 220.
11 Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. III, pp. 291 ff
12 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. VII, p. 104 ff.

Pravararaja came into conflict with a Somavamsi king of Bhandaka (probably Tivaradeva) and was overthrown by him. According to some historians, he belonged to the 8th century A.D., because all his inscriptions are incised in the box-headed alphabets of that period. Other scholars assert that as he was a contemporary of the Vishnukundin king Madhava Varman (c. 538-85 A.D.) and the Maukhari prince Suryavarman (A.D. 533) he must be assigned to the second half of the 6th century A.D.[1] In his Ipur and Polanura Grants Madhava Varman claims to have captured Tivaranagara, that is the capital city of king Tivara's realm.[2]

According to his Baloda Plates, Tivara or Mahasiva Tivararaja was the son of Nannadeva and grandson of Indrabala, of the lunar race (Somavamsis) or Pandu lineage (Panduvamsis). In a rock inscription of Kalanjara (in the Banda District of U.P.), Indrabala is described as an ancient king of that place. Probably he flourished in the last quarter of the 5th century A.D.[3] It seems quite convincing that these Panduvamsi rulers had their wide dominion in Central India and invaded Southern Kosala during the reign of Nannadeva. Before coming over to this region they had settled at Bhandak in Chanda District of Maharashtra.[4] Tivara's epithets like *Khosaladhipati* (lord of Kosala) and the expression *prapta sakala Kosaladhipatya* (one who obtained the sovereignty of the entire Kosala country) suggest that the occupation of Kosala by the Bhandaka rulers was completed by Tivaradeva. His capital was Sripura or modern Sirpur.

The throne passed on to his son Nannaraja II. The latter was succeeded by his uncle Chandragupta, who was succeeded by his son Harshagupta, whose wife Vasata built the famous Lakshmana temple of Sirpur after the death of her husband. Their son was Mahasivagupta Balarjuna, who enjoyed a long reign extending from the first to the 3rd quarter of the 7th century AD.. A number of stone inscriptions and copper plate grants of his reign have been discovered. Of these the Lodhia Plates were issued by the king in his 57th regnal year. As stated in the Aihole Inscription, if the assertion of the Chalukya king of Vatapi, Pulakesi II, is to be relied upon that he conquered all the territories between the Narmada and the Kaveri. Balarjuna must have been defeated by him before 633 A.D.[5]

After Balarjuna, probably the Nala kings of Bastar kept Southern Kosala under their subjugation till the rise of the later Somavamsis.[6] As indicated by the Lodhia and Mallar Plates these Panduvamsi rulers, specially Balarjuna were very tolerant in religious matters. Though personally they belonged either to the Saiva or Vaishnava faiths, they patronized Buddhism with a very liberal

1 Ibid, Vol. XXXI, pp 32 & 220; The Classical Age, p. 220.
2 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXII, p. 22.
3 The Classical Age, p. 220.
4 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXXI, p. 34; The Classical Age, p. 221.
5 The Classical Age, p. 222; R.C. Majumdar and Others. An Advanced History of India, p. 178.
6 The Classical Age, p. 222.

hand. It is said about Balarjuna that he donated a village for the upkeep of a *Bhikhu samgha*, residing in a small monastery.[1] The Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang too, who visited Southern Kosala in the 7th century A.D., recorded the Buddhist influence in the country under the Sirpur rulers.

About the king himself, Hiuen Tsang said that he was Kshatriya by birth, Buddhist by religion and very benevolent. There he found as many as 100 Buddhist monasteries inhabited by about 10,000 Brethren belonging to the Mahayana sect (the bigger wheel). The country was 6000 li in circuit, having rich and fertile soil surrounded by mountains and forests. The inhabitants were tall, dark and prosperous.[2] The recent excavation at Sirpur, under the leadership of M.G. Dixit, has unearthed a vast treasure of Buddhist archaeological remains and thereby has confirmed the description of the foreign traveller.[3]

The Somavamsis

After the downfall of the Pandu rulers of Sirpur the history of Durg District as well as Chhattisgarh region is shrouded in obscurity for almost two centuries. In the 10th century A.D., the Somavamsi dynasty came into power in Southern Kosala. Sivagupta was the first known ruler of his family. His son Janamejaya assumed the title "Lord of Trikalinga" to signify his conquest over Orissa. He was followed by four more kings of the direct line. Next came Mahasivagupta, the grandson of Maha-Bhavagupta, who not only regained Kosala and Utkala, conquered by Rajendra Chola, the famuos monarch of the south, but defeated the kings of Karnataka, Gurjara, Lata, Radha and Gauda. The Somavamsi House saw its downfall after the glorious reign of Udyotkesari Maha Bhavagupta IV. On one side Anantavarman Chodaganga snatched Orissa from them, on the other the Kalachuris of Tummana gradually conquered the whole of Kosala and ousted them from their possession, in 12th century A.D.[4]

The Sailvamsis

After the discovery of the Ragholi Plates, (a village in Balaghat District,) of Gayavardhana II of the Sailavamsa (the mountain family) belonging probably to the 8th century A.D., it seems quite convincing that during the declining period of the Sirpur kings these Sailvamsi rulers were making encroachments on the northern portion of Durg District. The genealogy of this ruling house begins with Srivardhana, whose son Prithuvardhana conquered the Gurjara country. One of his descendants was king Sanvardhana whose one son killed the king of Paundra (Bengal and Bihar)

1 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXVII. p. 321 and Vol. XXXI, p. 197.
2 Thomas Watters, op. cit., pp, 200-201.
3 Indian Archaeology—A Review, 1954-55, pp. 24-26.
4 R.C. Majumdar, Ancient India, pp. 382-83.

and another the ruler of Kasi, Jayavardhana. The son of the latter conquered the Vindhya region and shifted his residence on the mountains His son Srivardhana II assumed the title "Lord of the Vindhya" and grandson Jayavardhana II (the donor) granted the village Khaddika[1] for the maintenance of a sun temple near about Raghoji. The Sailvamsa may be identical with the Sailodbhavas of Orissa and an offshoot of the Gangavamsa of that region.[2]

At Durg itself another family seems to have reigned during the same period. Two stone inscriptions (ascribed to 8th century A.D. on palaeolithic grounds), which were found in Durg and later deposited in the Raipur museum, give evidence of the rule of one king, Shivadeva. In the first inscription mention is made of a Vaishnava temple with its deity Purusottama together with the name of king Shivadeva. The second inscription on the same stone associates the name of Sivapura (the capital of Shivadeva) with that of Sivadurga, indicating thereby that during Sivadeva's reign the town and the fort were separate and that he gave his name to both of them. The present name Durg is evidently a contraction of the old form Sivadurga, which he built. The river, on whose bank stands the present town is also called the Siva river.[3]

The Kalachuris

The Kalachuris of Tummna, who rose to power in Southern Kosala after the Sirpur rulers, claim their lineage in the Haihaya lineage.[4] According to a tradition the name Haihaya was the combination of a snake and a horse. In the genealogical lists of these Haihaya princes, however, as given in Kharod Inscription of Ratnadeva III, the Sarkho Plate of Ratnadeva II, the Ratanpur Inscription of Jajalladeva II, etc., Kartavirya Sahasrarjuna of the Epic and the *puranic* fame is referred to as the founder of the dynasty.[5]

As it is stated in the Kharod Inscription of Ratnadeva III, dated the Chedi year 933 (A.D. 1182), Kokkalla the founder of the Kalachuri dynasty of Tripuri, had 18 sons. According to the Prithavi stone inscription, Mugdhatunga (c. 890-910 A D.) son of Kokkalla I, conquered the line of countries along the eastern sea-shore and wrested Pali, 12 miles from Ratanpur and 30 miles from Tummana in Bilaspur district, from the lord of Kosala.[6] For a century, however, the Kalachuri power seems to have been eclipsed. But about 1000 A.D., Kalingaraja reconquered Dakshina Kosala.[7] Kalingaraja was born to the family of his youngest son, who by propitiating Bankeshvara or Siva, obtained the overlordship of Tummana.

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1 Hiralal indentifies this place with the village Khadi in the erstwhile Gondai Zamindari of the Durg District.
2 Hiralal, op. cit., p. 10; Drug District Gazetteer. pp. 36-37.
3 Drug District Gazetteer, p. 37; Hiralal, op. cit.. p, 136.
4 Pargiter, Ancient Indian Historical Traditions, pp. 41-102 and 144.
5 Epigraphia Indica. Vol. XXI. p. 160 and Vol XXII, p. 160.
6 Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. IV, Pt. I, No. 45, line 18.
7 Ibid., Pt. II, No. 77, Verse 6.

Kalingaraja was followed by Kamalraja, Ratnadeva I, Prithvideva I, Jajalladeva I, Ratnadeva II, Prithvideva II, Jajalladeva II, Jagaddeva and Ratnadeva III. Similar genealogy is given in the Daikoni Plates of Prithvideva II and the Amoda Plates.

During the reign of the Kalachuri ruler Prithvideva II, who succeeded his father in c 1135 A. D., a large number of tracts in various parts of Southern Kosala were included in the Kalachuri kingdom. Prithvideva's feudatory Jagapala won for him some areas, which are part of Durg District, namely Jalahari country (formerly Gondai Zamindari in the north of Durg District) and Saraharagarh, which has been identified with either Sorar in Durg District or a place in Raigarh or Bilaspur district. These achievements of his, made jointly with his two brothers Gajala and Jayatsimha and the Prime Minister Deoraja, are recorded in his Rajim temple inscription.[2] According to local legends Jagapala reigned in Durg as a feudatory chief under the Ratanpur rulers.[3]

Jagapala, as stated in the Rajim inscription, belonged to the Rejamala race founded by illustrious Sahilla at Vadahara (a place in U.P. to the south of the Ganges). His younger brother Vasudeva had three sons viz., Bhayila, Desala and Svamin. The youngest conquered Bhattavila (Baghelkhand) and Vihara countries and his two sons Jayadeva and Devasimha acquired the Districts of Dandora (Surguja) and Komamandala (Pendra Zamindary in Bilaspur). There they entered into an alliance with the Ratanpur monarchs, placed themselves under their overlordship and servitude.[4]

After the reign of Simhana (1355-1375 A.D.) the Kalachuri house of Ratanpur was split into two-- the northern branch was retained by Suradeva with his capital at Ratanpur, in Bilaspur District and the southern branch, bestowed on his younger son Brahmadeva, who established his capital at Raipur. The latter's inscriptions, one from Raipur, is dated in 1402 A.D. and the other from Khalari is dated in 1414 A.D.

In the 12th or 13th centuries A.D., the southern portion of modern Durg District was under the rule of the Kanker Chief as attested by the Gurur inscription of the Kanker Chief Baghraja About the same time one Yasah Karnadeva was in the Sahaspur-Lohara area. In an inscription on the statue of Sahasrabahu dated in the Kalachuri year 934 this Yasahraja is eulogised as equal to Vrihaspati in eloquence, to Bala in liberality, to Ramadeva in his handsome look and to Kartikeya in war tactics.[5] His queen was Lakshimadevi by whom he begot two sons, prince Bhojadeva and prince Rajadeva, and one daughter prin-

1 Drug District Gazetteer, p. 42; Raipur District Gazetteer, p. 47.
2 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. XXVIII, p 150, Hiralal op. cit., p. 107.
3 Drug District Gazetteer, p. 43.
4 Ibid., pp 38-41.
5 Hiralal, op, cit., p. 174.

cess Jasalladevi. Probably yasahraja belonged to the Nagavamsi dynasty, mentioned in the Mandava Mahal temple inscription at the Chaura village of Kawardha. A genealogical list of these feudatory princes, who are said to have sprang from the union of a serpent with sage Jatukarna's daughter Mithila, is also given in the epigraph.[1]

Other petty Chiefs were Gopaladeva of the Boramdeo temple inscription at Chhapri, a village 11 miles east of Kawardha, dated in the Kalachuri era 840 (1088 A.D.), the ruler of Balod and a Kalar Raja at Sorar. They all owed allegiance to the Ratanpur house.

There are two inscriptions of the Kalachuris of Raipur, which are now preserved in the museums of Nagpur and Raipur, respectively. The first one is the Raipur stone inscription of Brahmadeva, which is now preserved in the Central Museum of Nagpur. The second one is the Khalari stone inscription of Haribrahmadeva and is now preserved in the Raipur Museum. These inscriptions refer to the reign of the Kalachuri king Brahmadeva and are dated in V.S. 1458 (1401 A.D.) and 1470, respectively. They lead us to conclude that the great king Brahmadeva reigned at Raipur during 1402-1414 A.D.

The Raipur and Khalari stone inscriptions mention that there was a great prince at Raipur whose name was Lakshmideva. His son Simhana succeeded him and Simhana was succeeded by his son Ramchandra who was the father of Brahmadeva. It appears, therefore, that the first prince of Raipur branch was Lakshmideva, the great grand-father of Brahmadeva.

According to the Khalari inscription of Brahmadeva, Simhana is stated to have conquered 18 garhs of the enemy.[2] "It is popularly believed that Chhattisgarh had 36 forts from which fact it is supposed to have derived its name. This mention of 18 garhs as including half the territory ruled by the Haihayas might give some support to this theory, but the name of Chhattisgarh is not given in a single record and is more probable that the name is a corruption of Chedisgarh, meaning the forts of the lord of Chedi"[3]. As the Haihaya dynasty of Ratanpur was a younger branch of the Cedi family, they continued to cherish its name. In the Mallar Inscription of King Jajalladeva II, he has been mentioned as 'the leader of the princes who delight in keeping up the Chedi family".[4] Although the rulers of Ratanpur have been quite independent of the Chedi kings of Jabalpur, "they still retained the pride of relationship to the elder house and may well have given their dominions a name which would

1 Ibid., pp. 137, 174 and 175

2 Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. IV, Pt. II, p 578

3 Raipur District Gazetteer, p. 49.

4 Epigraphia Indica, Vol. I, p. 43.

keep up the link".[1] This popular belief has become so deep-rooted that the people have actually made out lists of 36 forts of the Chhattisgarh region. Kalyan Sai's account-books, however, give the list of 48 forts in the region. This difference in the number of forts is explained by the possibility that further conquests raised the number from 36 to 48. J.W. Chisholm has given a list of 36 forts "arranged with reference to the subsequent distribution, rendering them subordinate to the senior and junior branches of the family, ruling respectively at Ruttunpore (Ratanpur) and Raepoor (Raipur)".[2] These forts were in reality each, the headquarters of a sub-division of the territories, comprising a number of villages in them.

The Kalachuri kings of Raipur trace their desent from Kesavadeva who was reigning in 1410 A.D. This is, however, not possible as we learn from Khalari and Raipur stone inscriptions of Brahmadeva that he was ruling the territories at least between 1402 and 1413 A.D. If Kesavadeva was a successor of Brahmdeva, his ruling period might be put about 1420 A.D.[3] A list of the Kalachuri kings of the Raipur branch, succeeding Brahmadeva, given by A. Cunningham,[4] contains names of 17 rulers, beginning from 1420 A.D. According to this list, the last ruler of this branch was Amarsinghdeva, who was displaced by the Bhonslas sometime in the last decade of the 18th century.

The two stone inscriptions of Brahmadeva record a defeat which Ramadeva (or Ramchandra), the father of Brahmadeva, inflicted on Bhoningadeva, who belonged to the Phanivamsa or Naga dynasty.[5] During this period two Naga families were ruling in Chhattisgarh region. One family belonged to the former Kawardha State and the other belonged to the former Bastar State. The last dated record of the Naga family of Bastar is of king Harishchandra, who was ruling in 1324 A.D.[6] The Naga family of Kawardha also continued to rule till the 14th century, as the Mandava Mahal Inscription at Chaura is dated in Vikrama Samvat 1406 or A.D. 1349.[7] In the absence of subsequent records of the Naga families, it is difficult to say to which family Bhoningadeva belonged. Most probably he was a king of the former Bastar State; for, the Chiefs of the Naga dynasty of the former Kawardha State are "known to have been feudatories of the Kalachuris whose era they used in earlier times".[8] Some of these kings were also matrimonially connected with the Kalachuris[9].

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1 Raipur District Gazetteer (1909), p. 49.
2 Bilaspur Settlement Report, 1868, p. 24
The 18 forts of the Raipur branch included Raipur, Patan, Simga, Singarpur, Lawan, Amura, Durg, Sardha, Sirsa, Mohdi, Khalari, Sirpur, Fingeshwar, Rajim, Singangarh, Sharmai, Tengnagarh and Ekalwara.
3 Raipur District Gazetteer, (1909), p. 51.
4 Reports of the Archaeological Survey of India, Vol. XVII, pp 80-81.
5 Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. IV, Pt. I, p. Cxxxiii.
6 Epigraphia Indica, Vol X, pp. 39 ff.
7 Hiralal, op. cit. (Second Edition), p. 176.
8 Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. IV, Pt I, p. Cxxxiii.
9 Hiralal, op cit., (Second Edition), p. 174, King Ramchandra of Kawardha was married to Ambikadevi of Haihaya lineage.

Of the last king Amarsinghdeva, there is a copper-plate *sanad* in the possession of Anjori Lodhi of Arang, 22 miles from Raipur on the Sambalpur road, dated in V.S. 1792 (1735 A.D.) and issued from Raipur.[1] It is a *sanad* given by the ruler of Raipur to Thakur Nandu and Ghasiraya, ancestors of Anjori Lodhi of Arang, exempting their family from payment of taxes in respect of ordinary marriages, widow remarriages, desertion by a wife and property of deceased persons in the family. According to Hiralal Amarsinghdeva was the last ruler of the Kalachuris of Raipur Branch and continued to administer the government till 1750 A.D., when he was quietly displaced from his position and given a maintenance grant by the Bhonslas of Nagpur.[2] Amarsinghdeva received for his maintenance the *parganas* of Rajim, Patan and Raipur, for which he was obliged to pay a tribute of Rs. 7,000 per annum.[3]

It is not till the reign of Kalyan Sai, the Ratanpur king, that the overpowering influence of the Muhammadan sovereignty extended into a region so landlocked and isolated as Chhattisgarh.[4] He was most probably the ruler of Ratanpur, between the years 1536 and 1573 A.D.[5] He is said to have proceeded to Delhi to have the audience of the great Mughal Emperor Akbar. Before proceeding to Delhi, he made over the administration of his kingdom to his son Lakshman Sai. He was in Delhi for about eight years and returned to Ratanpur, laden with honours and having been invested with the full rights of a Raja and confirmed in the possession of the territory of Ratanpur with a high sounding title. The Muslim chronicles, however, do not mention any event of this kind.[6]

One of the revenue books of Kalyan Sai's reign contains an interesting account of the condition of Chhattisgarh some four centuries ago. According to this book, the Ratanpur government, including Raipur, comprised 48 *garhs* or *talukas*, yielding a revenue of 6½ lakhs of rupees, and including "*Sair*" of 9 lakhs of rupees, which, considering the relative value of money in those early days, and now, indicates a large share of prosperity. His territory then extended nearly over the whole of the region of Chhattisgarh. Of course, there were some Rajas in the region, who were called either his subordinates or feudatories.[7] At that time revenue yielded from Durg *Pargana* (*Khalsa*) of Raipur branch of the Haihayas, amounted to Rs. 15.000 approximately and the number of villages included in the *pargana* was nearly 84.[8]

1 Ibid, p. 109.

2 Ibid.

3 Raipur Settlement Report, 1869, p. 19.

4 Raipur District Gazetteer, p. 52.

5 Bilaspur Settlement Report, 1868, p. 27.

6 Raipur District Gazetteer, pp. 52-53; Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol, IV. Pt. I, pp. Cxxxii-Cxxxiii and f.n. According to A. Cunningham, he had been to Delhi on account of a dispute with the Raja of Mandla and returned to Ratanpur in 1571 A.D.

7 Bilaspur Settlement Report, 1868, pp. 27-28.

8 Raipur Settlement Report, 1869, p. 18.

Kalyan Sai maintained an army of nearly 14,200 men and an establishment of 116 elephants. This army was fully adequate for the maintenance of internal order of the country. "As for external enemies, the difficulties of approach, and comparative remoteness and poverty of the country, made an invasion in earlier years by no means an inviting prospect, and subsequently Kullians (Kalyan) Sai's shrewdness in proceeding to Delhi, and his acknowledgment by the emperor Akbar, tended to prolong for years the rule of his dynasty."[1]

There is nothing worth recording in connection with the rules of Kalyan Sai's successors until we come to Rajsingh (1689-1712 A. C.) who was issueless. His Brahmin Diwan, a hereditary servant of the family, proposed the novel remedy of asking a selected Brahmin to visit the favourite Rani of Rajsinghdeva. In due time a son was born, who was named Bishnathsinghdeva. He was later on married to a daughter of the ruler of Rewa, but finally committed suicide by stabbing himself.

Rajsingh, on being informed of what had happened, blew down with his guns the part of the town in which the Diwan and his relatives lived. Subsequently, Rajsingh selected Mohan Singh of the Raipur house as his successor. But unfortunately the death of Raj Singh was some what sudden and Mohan Singh was on a shooting expedition at that time. He, therefore, could not come back early and Rajsingh put the *pagri* on the head of his grand-uncle, Sardarsingh, thus acknowledging him as his successor.[2]

On return from the shooting expedition, Mohan Singh was greatly enraged at being thus superseded , and while leaving said that he would again return and assume the government.[3] Sardarsingh, however, ruled quietly for 20 years and was succeeded by his brother Raghunath Singh in 1732 A. D. He was a man already over 60 and quite unable to face the difficulties which were shortly to overtake his territories. During his reign occurred the invasion of the Chhattisgarh region by the Marathas.[4]

The Garha-Mandla Dynasty

Side by side with the rulers of the Kalachuri dynasties of Southern Kosala, a portion of the District, represented by the erstwhile Kawardha and Khairagarh States, was being ruled by the Raj-Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla. It may be stated here that Shiamghan was recognised by the Gond ruler, Maharaj Shah (1732-42 A. D.) as his feudatory at Khairagarh.[5] Similarly, Kawardha, as an estate was originally held by the landlords of Bhonda who were in subsidiary alliance with the Gond ruling family of Garha-Mandla. Later, one Mahabali Singh from

1. Ibid, p. 28.
2. Raipur Settlement Report, 1869, pp. 28-30.
3. Raipur District Gazetteer, p. 54.
4. Bilaspur District Gazetteer, p. 47.
5. Chhattisgarh Feudatory State Gazetteer, p. 113.

the landlord family of Pandaria rendered military service to the Mandla-*raja* during his fight with the ruler of Sagar and got the estate of Kawardha as a reward. Probably for this reason the ruling family of Kawardha claims descent from the Raj-Gond family of Mandla. According to a different version, however, Mahabali Singh got the State from Raghoji Bhonsla of Nagpur (c. 1698-1755 A. D.) for rendering him military service.[1]

The founder of the Raj-Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla was Jadurai or Yadavaraya, who came, probably, from the Godavari region and established a small principality in the Garha-Katanga region of Jabalpur District. In the Ramnagar palace inscription of his descendant, Hidre Shah, names of the ruling princes of this dynasty are recorded. Sangram Shah, a scion of this family came to the *gaddi* in c. 1480 and increased his patrimony by adding 52 *garhs* or districts to it. His daughter-in-law, the illustrious Rani Durgavati of Garha fought a gallant war with Akbar's General Asaf Khan in 1564 but lost her extensive territory to the Mughals. After a lapse of a few decades, however, her descendants were allowed to rule the territory as vassals of the Mughals till the Marathas appeared on the scene.

The Marathas

At the close of 1742 A. D., occurred the invasion of Chhattisgarh, Durg being a part of it, by the Maratha General, Bhaskar Pant. By then, Raghunath Singh had already been on the *gaddi* for some 8 years. At the time he was bowed down with a heavy sorrow. He had lost his only son and had ceased for nearly a year to take any interest in his government. A feeble man at best, but now worn out with years and afflicted in mind, he made no effort to defend his kingdom but waited in the calmness of despair till Bhaskar Pant reached his capital.[2] Even then there was no attempt at resistance. Bhaskar Pant brought his guns to play on the fort and a part of the palace was soon in ruins. At this juncture one of the *Ranis* mounted the parapet and exhibited the flag of truce. The gates were then opened and the invading army entered and took possession. In this inglorious manner ended the rule of the Haihayavansi dynasty, which without a struggle yielded up its heritage.[3]

Bhaskar Pant having reduced Ratanpur left a small garrison in it and marched for Cuttack. A fine of a lakh of rupees is mentioned as having been imposed on the town and all that remained in the treasury was appropriated. The army is said to have consisted of 40,000 men, chiefly horse, who pillaged the country in all directions. No violence was, however, done to Raghunath Singh, who in fact was permitted to carry on the government in the name of the Bhonslas.[4]

1 Ibid., p. 147.

2. Bilaspur Settlement Report, 1868,, p. 30.

3 Raipur District Gazetteer, p 55.

4 Bilaspur District Gazetteer, p. 48, It is mentioned that immediately Bhaskar Pant had gone Raghunath Singh ousted his representative, a Gosain, and once more assumed the Government.

Subsequently, in A.D. 1745, when Raghoji returned from Bengal, he crossed from Rewa to Ratanpur, and finding that Raghunath Singh, the late raja was dead, he installed Mohan Singh as raja and proceeded to Nagpur.[1]

With all these developments in the back ground, Amar Singh the representative of the younger branch of the Haihayavansi dynasty was ruling in Raipur near Durg. It seems that he was not interfered with either by Bhaskar Pant or Mohan Singh. Till 1750 A. D., he continued to administer the Government, when he was quietly ousted by the Marathas and given for his maintenance the *parganas* of Rajim, Patan and Raipur for which he paid a yearly tribute of 7,000 Rupees.[2] At the time of his death in 1753, his son Seoraj Singh was absent on a pilgrimage, and the Maratha Government confiscated the *parganas*.[3]

Raghoji died at Nagpur in the year 1755. After his death Chhattisgarh and its dependencies were recognized as the appanage of his youngest son Bimbaji.[4] Thus Durg passed under the rule of Bimbaji. Though nominally subordinate to the Raja at Nagpur, Bimbaji was to a large extent independent, with a separate court and house-hold at Ratanpur, separate ministers and a separate army.[5]

Before Bimbaji assumed the Government of Chhattisgarh in 1758, Mohan Singh seems to have ruled it. Mohan Singh disliked the country being made over to Bimbaji , as such he prepared to oppose the progress of Bimbaji. But he was taken suddenly ill and died at Raipur where he had collected a force. Thus Bimbaji assumed the Government without disturbance.[6]

On assumption of authority, Bimbaji gave to Seoraj Singh, the son of ex-ruler Amar Singh (whose *parganas* were confiscated), the village of Bargaon in the Mahasamund tahsil free of revenue, and one rupee on every village formerly owned by his ancestors, for his maintenance. This arrangement continued till 1822, when in lieu of one rupee on every village in the District, Raghunath Singh, son of Seoraj Singh, received the villages of Govinda, Murhena, Nandgaon and Bhalesar, all near Bargaon, free of revenue to be held by his successors.[7]

When the Marathas took over the Government of this tract decay had already, in all probability, reduced it to a state very much inferior to that in which it was during the earlier days of the Haihayavansi rule. The raids of Binjhawars of Sonakhan, a tribe allied to the Boonjias living in the Mahanadi—Jonk tract,

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1. In A. D. 1745, when Raghoji returned from Bengal, he heard of Raghunath Singh's reassertion of authority. He deposed Raghunath Singh and installed Mohan Singh as Raja, (Bilaspur District Gazetteer, p. 49).
2. Drug District Gazetteer, p. 45.
3. Ibid.
4. C. U. Wills, British Relations with the Nagpur State in the 18th Century, p. 147.
5. R. Jenkins, Report on the Territories of the Raja of Nagpur, p. 76.
6. Bilaspur District Gazetteer, p. 49.
7. Raipur District Gazetteer, pp. 56-57.

had seriously affected the prosperity of the eastern *parganas* of Lowan, Sirpur, Khullaree and the eastern portions of Raipur; and a continuance of these disorders gradually caused their total depopulation. So entirely was the country ruined that the revenue of the three first named tracts which had amounted to 63,160 rupees in 1563 A. D., was reduced to between three and four thousand Nagpur Rupees in 1817 A. D.[1]

To this was added the strong hand of the military rule of Bimbaji. With great oppression and rapacity he maintained order in the country. But adverse effect of all this was so much upon the revenue that from 8 lakhs of rupees it came down to 3 lakhs.[2] Though in his early years of reign Bimbaji was very oppressive, in course of time he indetified himself more and more with his people, leaving a memory fairly popular and respected.[3]

Bimbaji died in the year 1767. He had no sons. He, therefore, had adopted his nephew Chimnaji and nominated him as the successor of his territory. Anandi Bai the widow of Bimbaji also desired that Chimnaji might take possession of the Ratanpur districts. But subsequently, Chimnaji died in mysterious circumstances under the suspected plot of Rajghoji II,[4] his elder brother, the Raja of Nagpur, who was afraid of the adventurous spirit of Chimnaji[5]. Consequent upon this Chhattisgarh was assigned to Vyankoji, another younger brother of Raghoji II, as an appanage in 1788 A. D.[6]

Vyankoji, though he paid two or three flying visits to Chhattisgarh, never interested himself in its government, being too much mixed up with the more important politics at Nagpur. He ordered the '*Subah*' to assume the government of Chhattisgarh on his behalf. But this was much resented by Anandi Bai, and the first *Subah* was repulsed by her with the help of Bimbaji's army. However, a compromise was soon effected It was decided that the government should be carried on in the name of Vyankoji who should be represented by a *Subah* on the spot, that the *Suba* should be bound to obey all orders of Anandi Bai. who should be consulted on all the details of the government. Practically Anandi Bai wielded all authority until her death at the beginning of the 19th century.[7] Subahdar Vitthal Deokar, who was consequently deputed to manage the country, is said to have introduced a form of *Pargana* Accounts on the village system known to the Marathas.[8]

Anandi Bai continued her rule with the help of respective *subahs*. In 1890, an early European traveller writes that "the widow of Bimbaji, Mudhoji's brother,

1. Raipur Settlement Report, 1869, p. 20.
2. C. U. Wills, op cit., p. 97.
3 Raipur District Gazetteer, p. 57.
4, Prayag Dutta Shukla, *Madhy Pradesh Ka Itihas Aur Nagpur Ke Bhonsle*, pp. 140-41.
5. C. U. Wills, op. cit., p. 92
6. R. Jenkins, op. cit., p. 61.
7. Bilaspur Settlement Report, 1868, p. 32.
8. Raipur Settlement Report, 1869, p. 20.

is still alive and all ostensible respect is shown to her, but the executive part of the Government is in the hands of Mayput Rao, a brahmin from Nagpur. The collections of Raypore, including the tok upon loaded cattle, are only 70,000 rupees--and those of all Ruttanpur, not above 1,50,000. The people were remarkably civil."[1]

The same traveller wrote, "We encamped near the fort and village of Doorge. There are several fields of pawn, and the adjacent country appears well cultivated. The Komaishdar or headman of the place, came out and visited us, and was very civil."[2]

Regarding Dongargarh, the same traveller Leckie writes, "Encamped at the village of Cheepa, where we got provided with grain and remained all day. We marched again in the evening, and the road led through a forest of large trees. Dongurghur is off the road to the right, about eight miles from Cheepa. There was formerly a fort there, but both that and the village are in ruins. We encamped on the banks of a dry nullah, two miles beyond it, in which we were obliged to dig for water. The road was remarkably good."[3]

The *suba* of Chhattisgarh, with its dependencies was, in 1795 A. D., rented by the Nagpur Government to Vitthal Pandit for a specific sum which was payable annually in Nagpur.[4] At that time large quantities of grain were exported from Chhattisgarh all over the Nizam's dominions and even to the *Sarcars* when required.[5] Such was the state of exports that in seasons of plenty, 100,000 bullocks were said to have been employed. Evidently Chhattisgarh was one of the most productive areas under the Raja of Nagpur.[6]

The headquarters of the *Subah* was Ratanpur, the old seat of Government, and he was assisted in the interior by Sub-Collectors called *Kamaishdars*. After Vitthal Pandit, till the fall of Appa Saheb, five *Subahdars* administered Chhattisgarh. They were Karu Pant, Keshava Pant, Bhika Bhan, Sakha Ram Bapu and Yadava Rao Divakar, respectively. They were subject to very little control and as long as they were maintained in power by the central authority at Nagpur, most of them were very unscrupulous as to the means pursued to become rich. They were driven to this course by the knowledge that their position will certainly be short-lived and that they must inevitably within a short interval be superseded by some new favourites.[7]

This was a period when a system of universal loot was a recognized State policy As regards the revenue collection, in the course of eighteen years from

1. Early European Traveller in the Nagpur Territories, p. 66.
2. Ibid, p. 67.
3. Ibid.
4. C. U Wills, op. cit., p. 130.
5. Early European Traveller, p. 128.
6. Ibid.
7. Raipur District Gazetteer, p. 58.

1209 *fasli* to 1227 *fasli*, the assessment was raised from 126,000 to 383,000 rupees, and Colonel Agnew describes the *Suba* in 1819, as presenting one uniform scene of plunder and oppression, uninfluenced by any consideration, but that of collecting, by whatever means, the largest amount possible.[1]

One of the last of the *Subahs*, Sakha Ram Bapu, was shot by a resident of Ratanpur. He had under false pretences promised to raise the man to a position of independence and dignity as a large landed proprietor and thus deliberately robbed him of a considerable fortune.[2]

In addition to the oppression and plunder by these *subahadars*, the region did not escape the ravages of Pindaries also. "In 1806, March, a considerable body of Pindaries had made its appearance in Chhattisgarh, and after carrying off a very valuable caravan of silks, etc., and plundering two to three pergunas it had encamped in the neighbourhood of Rattanpur with an intention of attacking that place."[3] In the year 1817, precautionary arrangements had to be made again on the north-eastern frontier of Nagpur Territories by the British to intercept a body of Pindaries, who seemed likely to return by Ratanpur enroute to Jabalpur and Sagar.[4]

Such was the state of affairs of Chhattisgarh when events moved repidly at Nagpur, the headquarters of the Bhonslas. Vyankoji during his trip to Benares, passed away in 1811 A. D.[5] Raghoji II died on the 22 March, 1816 and his son Parsojee succeeded him. But on account of Parsojee's infirmities and incapacity to rule, his cousin Appa Saheb was invested by him with "the entire administration of his Government."[6] Shortly after this, a treaty of Subsidiary Alliance was secretly concluded with the British by Appa Saheb on the night on 27 April, 1816[7] against the general opinion of the responsible servants of the Nagpur Government. However, in concluding this treaty Appa Saheb was only preparing the way for realising his future ambitions On 1 February, 1817, Parsojee was strangled to death by the secret order of Appa Saheb and the British connived at it.[8]

Thus the District passed under the rule of Appa Saheb. Appa Saheb was, however, not happy with the Subsidiary Alliance he had made with the British. Therefore, to throw off his state of dependence, early in September, 1817 he befriended the Pindari leader Cheetu and enlisted a number of fresh troops.[9] The hunt of the Pindaries by the British merged into the Third Maratha War, which led to the Battle of Sitabaldi on 26 and 27 November, 1817 at Nagpur between the

1. R. Jenkins, op. cit., p. 115.
2. Raipur District Gazetteer, p. 59.
3. Selections from Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. I. p. 78.
4. Ibid. Vol. III p. 64.
5. Bilaspur District Gazetteer, p 50.
6. Selections from Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. III, p. 474.
7. Ibid., p. 64.
8. Ibid., p. iv.
9. Sardesai, New History of Marathas, Vol. III, p. 475.

British and Appa Saheb. The battle concluded in favour of the British and Appa Saheb surrendered. Consequently as a part of the treaty concluded between Appa Saheb and the Britishers, the tract of Chhattisgarh passed into the hands of the British.

For the purpose of general administration of the Nagpur Territories, they were divided into four districts, viz., Chhattisgarh, Bhandara, Chanda and Deogarh-Balaghat or Chhindwara. At the headquarters of the districts were posted British Superintendents, who controlled the administration of the district.[1] Captain Edmonds was the first British officer posted in Chhattisgarh as Collector and Magistrate to carry on administration.[2]

About the condition of the District before 1818, a point to be remembered is that whereas the northern portions of Raipur district were open to the raids of the Binjhwars of Sonakhan, Durg district, lying too far west beyond the Sheonath escaped entirely from the robbers. The Gond Zamindaries to the west were too weak to cause any serious trouble. Thus, when the northern portions of Raipur district were ruined by the Marathas, and overrun by Binjhwars and wild beasts, Durg District was clear of jungles, decoits and to a great extent of the Marathas too.[3]

But the Britishers were unmindful of the peoples' welfare. They introduced opium in these territories in an organized manner.[4]

Meanwhile, in 1818 disturbances in Dongargarh broke out. Edmonds had scarcely succeeded in putting down these disturbances, when he died only a few months after his arrival and was succeeded by Col. Agnew.[5] Col. Agnew was Superintendent from 1818 to 1825. He restored peace and adjusting the large balances of revenue shown as due in the Maratha accounts, he proceeded to organise civil administration. He took many important decisions with regard to land revenue settlement and was successful in his attempts. The revenue of Chhattisgarh increased from rupees 3,31,470 in 1818 to rupees 4,03,224 in 1825.[6]

In 1825 A. D. Col. Agnew was succeeded by Captain Hunter who held charge only for a few months, when Captain Sandys took over charge and remained till 1828. He was succeeded successively by Captain Wilkinson and Captain Crawford, the latter holding charge till 1830 A. D., when the Maratha Government was restored.[7]

We may have to stop here and recollect that subsequent to deposition of Appa Saheb, Raghojee III was raised to the headship of the Nagpur State. He

1. Selections from Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. IV, p. vii.
2. Ibid. pp 77 & 105.
3. Final Report on the Land Revenue Settlement of the Durg District, 1912, p. 6.
4. Selections from Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. IV p. vii,
5. Raipur Settlement Report, 1869, p. 21,
6. Ibid., pp. 21, 24.
7. Ibid., p. 24.

was at that time only 10 years of age. As such, under the Regency of Bakabai, the step-mother of late Parsojee, the administration of Nagpur was looked after. Resident the Jenkins became the virtual guardian of the State and according to his wishes only, English Superintendents were appointed for administering Chhattisgarh and allied tracts.[1]

In June, 1830 Raghojee III attained majority and as such, the administration was made over to him. From 1830 till 1854 the country remained under the Maratha administration. During these 24 years Chhattisgarh was governed by a succession of *Subahs* who resided at Raipur. On the whole, this period is regarded as a period of slow but steady progress.[2]

In the year 1853, on 11 December, Raghojee III died without an heir. Subsequent to this Lord Dalhousie did not permit the Bhonsla family to adopt a son, and Nagpur Kingdom was annexed to the British dominion in March 1854. For the purpose of administration Durg was attached to Bhandara District (now in Maharashtra State) but in 1857 it was separated and made into a tahsil of Raipur District to which it remained attached till 1906.

At the time of the Great Revolt of 1857 nothing worth mentioning appears to have happened at Durg. However, Raipur District, of which Durg was a tahsil, could not escape the flames of the Great Uprising. At the time, the headquarters and the greater part of the 3rd Regiment were stationed at Raipur. Very soon after the events of May, 1857 became known to the people of the Central Provinces, symptoms of disloyalty began to be manifested by the troops.[3]

As a matter of fact, the Raipur tract was specially suited for a revolt, which, properly organised, could have enveloped the whole wild tract from Bhandara and Chanda in the west to the borders of Orissa and Bengal. About this the Commissioner of Nagpur remarked that, "a rebellion dispersed over so vast, so difficult and so unhealthy a tract could not have been quelled without a large army and an enormous sacrifice of life."[4]

After some notable events in October-December, 1857 and in January, 1858, the rising in the Raipur tract came to an end. The Great Uprising was put down with a savage repression. The Deputy Commissioner of Raipur prepared lists of families from every village which had been thought to be guilty of rebellion and severe action was taken against them.[5]

In the years that followed the Great Revolt, while the people sullenly nursed their resentment and while the British officers and civilians were striding land with arrogance and brutality of mediaeval conquerors. India was being gradually

1. *Prayag Dutta Shukla*, op. cit., p 173.
2. Bilaspur District Gazetteer, p. 59.
3. Kaye and Malleson, History of the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58, Vol. V. p. 77.
4. History of Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh, p. 83.
5. Ibid, p. 84.

transformed. The seething discontent, groping for an outlet, expressed itself first in movements for religious and social reform. Of those, there were several, mainly the proselytising organisations such as Brahmo Samaj and Arya Samaj, which hoped to check the Christian Missionary by a dynamic Hinduism. Though the Samaj was formally established much late in the District, some revivalist movements were opening out to the minds of the people a vision of the greatness of their heritage. A number of such social and voluntary organisations sprang up in the district of Raipur, of which Durg was a tahsil.

The political awakening was evident in the Central Provinces from the Provincial Political Conferences that were held at Nagpur, Jabalpur and Raipur, but the District does not seem to have been directly associated with the Swadeshi movement till 1906 A. D. At Rajnandgaon Thakur Pyarelal Singh with Sheo lal Master and Shankar Rao Khare, used to propagate the use of Khadi, thereby giving impetus to Swadeshi movement.[1] The residence of Sarang Pani Mudliar was their headquarters.[2] In the year 1909 Thakur Pyarelal established "Saraswati Pustakalaya" at Rajnandgaon, with the help of Rajulal Sharma, Chhavi Ram Choube and set to further the cause of national movement. However, in the year 1915, the political workers of Madhya Pradesh decided to close their ranks and formed the "Central Provinces and Berar Provincial Association" in the month of November, 1915. Among the members of its Standing Committee, Durg was represented by Nalinikant Choudhary and Ghanshyam Singh Gupta.[3] When the Home Rule League, started by Annie Besant, took up the cause of India's freedom. a branch of the League was established at Durg in 1915.[4]

A real sign of awakening in the District was, however, marked from the year 1919. When Rawlatt Act was passed, strike was observed all over India. Strike was organised and public meetings were held in this District also.[5] While practising at the Court of Law, Thakur Pyarelal had started organising Rajnandgaon Mill workers. There he organised a historic strike in April, 1920 A. D. The strike continued for 37 days and ultimately ended in the victory of the workers. The workers' strike was, perhaps, the first ever and the longest one in the country.[6] The success of this labour movement gave impetus to the cause of the nationalist. Subsequently, orders were issued by the authorities of Rajnandgaon State externing Thakur Pyarelal Singh, Rajulal and Sheolal. Thakur Pyarelal immediately wrote to the Governor challenging the order, upon which the externment orders were cancelled, and the political Agent F. L. Crawford and other State officers had to apologise to Thakur Pyarelal Singh.[7] Subsequent to the Jalianwalabag

1 Hari Thakur, Thakur Pyarelal Singh, p. 7.

2. Ibid.

3. Prayag Dutt Shukla, *Kranti Ke Charan*, p. 129.

4. Ibid., p. 136.

5. Ibid., p. 165.

6. Hari Thakur, op. cit., p. 11.

7. Ibid., pp. 13-14.

massacre the agitation against the foreign government started gaining much momentum. The strike was followed by the Non-Co-operation movement of 1920. Thakur Pyarelal gave up his practice. In the course of the movement a Kshatriya Vidyalaya was set up at Rajnandgaon by Thakur Pyarelal, Dr. Baldeo Prasad Mishra, Thakur Pannalal Singh and Bonsilal.[1] In the year 1920, Bal Gangadhar Tilak passed away. The District mourned the loss of the departed leader along with the whole country. Strike was observed for two days by the students at Khairagarh (then a state) and general strike was observed at Dongargarh. A meeting was held at Patan in the month of January, 1921 on the arrival of Pandit Sundarlal and Mahatma Bhagwandin. Dinanath, Malguzar of Patan read a *chaupai* of Ramayan in the meeting casting aspersion upon government servants, for which he was fined Rs. 500/- by the court. A District Political Conference was arranged on the 25 February, 1923 by the District Congress Committee at Durg. The main speakers in the Conference were Ram Prasad, R. S. Shukla and Ghanshyam Singh Gupta. They bitterly criticised the British Government.[2]

This was but only the beginning of the Nationalist Movement in the District. In the year 1923, when the Flag *Satyagraha* was launched the Prantiya Congress Committee asked Thakur Pyarelal to enlist volunteers from Durg District. A number of volunteers were enlisted for this *Satyagraha*. In organising the movement he was assisted among others, by Chhotelal Shrivastava from Dhamtari and Shyamlal from Sihawa. On the 16 March, 1924 the District Congress Session was arranged to be held at Durg, under the presidentship of Pandit Sundarlal. Regarding the entry of the police to the conference. it was decided that the police should be permitted to enter only after purchasing the tickets. Following is the detail of the Conference reported by the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division in his confidential letter No. 9 dated 3rd May, 1924 to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Central Provinces.[3]

Apparently the Swarajists of Chhattisgarh had discontinued the practice (if it ever existed) of sending complimentary tickets to the police, with the result that tickets had to be purchased for all the police officers and the Magistrate who accompanied them to important polictical meetings under executive orders. In order to report, tickets for the dais were usually purchased on these occasions Accordingly on the 16th March, 5 tickets priced at 5/- each were purchased for 5 reporters in connection with the Durg District Conference. The officers had chairs and tables placed on the dias in order to facilitate their work, but this was objected to by the organizers. The officers tried to compromise matters by agreeing to the removal of chairs but they insisted on keeping the tables which were essential for their work. This demand was also over-ruled by the organizers. He (President Sundarlal) however, offered to refund the price of the tickets, but the offer was declined. Mr. Sagane (the Extra Assistant Commissioner) and the Tahsildar then returned to the pandal where a number of people

1. Ibid., p. 14.
2. Drug District Political Case. File Regarding Swadeshi Movement from 1907 to 1937.
3. Ibid.

had already assembled. Thinking that the surrender of the table in the presence of the crowd would be humiliating, the Extra Assistant Commissioner decided to keep it and put his arm on it to enforce the decision. The *Swarajists* were rather non-plussed by this move on his part and further negotiations of a complicated nature ensued, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Deputy Commissioner and District Superintendent of Police having ultimately been involved in the controversy. In the mean time Sundarlal, who had come over to the pandal, announced *ex-cathedra* that the Conference could not be opened until the offending tables had been removed from the dais. On receipt of this information the Deputy Commissioner directed Sagane to have the table removed. The formal opening of the Conference was delayed by nearly 3 hours owing to this incident. This was the victory of the people. They became more spirited and on the 6 April, i.e., after three weeks only of the Durg incident, the history repeated itself at Patan where a political meeting was convened by the *Swarajists*. This time again the police authorities had to bow down.[1]

These incidents infused new spirit in the people of the District. After the Congress session of 1926 Chhotelal Verma started a "Young Men Association," and "Swarnkar Bal Samaj Patrika" (manuscript) came on the scene from Khairagarh to infuse sense of patriotism in the youth.

After the Lahore Congress and declaration of *Purna Swarajya* as the goal, events moved rapidly. The campaign opened on the 26 January, 1930 which was named as Independence Day. The day was celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout the District.[2] In Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh (then states) Prajamandals were established in the same year. When Gandhiji undertook his historic march from Sabarmati to Dandi, Durg was also ready along with the rest of the country for the Civil Disobedience Movement.

The District opened its campaign of Forest *Satyagraha* on 3 August, 1930, when Narsingh Prasad Agarwala, pleader, Balod, delivered a speech at a meeting held at Pondi, in which he exhorted the audience to break government laws and in particular the forest laws by cutting grass and removing it from government reserved forest. He was, on the 13th August, 1930, sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 200.[3]

Then Ghanshyam Singh Gupta, pleader of Durg, delivered a speech on 13 August, at Jabalpur, in which he criticised the conduct of the police towards Congress sympathisers and read a resolution of the Congress Working Committee, in which the police were exhorted to desert duty and to disobey the orders of their superior officers against members of the Congress. He also distributed copies of that resolution among some police officers. As a result Ghanshyam

1. Ibid.
2. Note on the Civil Disobedience Movement in the C. P. & Berar (31st October, 1930), p. 1.
3. A Compilation of Important Political Trials in Central Provinces and Berar, p. 3.

Singh Gupta was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.[1] For similar activities, Ram Prasad Desmukh, pleader of Durg, was, on the 24th August, 1930 sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment. So also V. Y. Tamaskar, pleader from Bemetara was on the 2nd September, 1930, sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment.[2]

On the 10th September, 1930 at Durg and on the 16th September, 1930 at Balod, Ratnakar Jha, pleader and President of the municipal committee of Durg, delivered speech and asked the audience to boycott government servants and to refuse to supply them with food and drink. He was, therefore, ordered to execute a bond for a sum of Rs. 500 with two sureties each of a like amount to keep peace for a period of one year.[3]

Meanwhile, the situation of the District started taking a serious turn and on the 12th September, 1930 Prevention of Intimidation Ordinance was applied to the District. Under this ordinance 19 cases were dealt in the District upto the 1st November, 1930.[4] With the calling off of the Civil Disobedience Movement after the conclusion of Gandhi-Irwin Pact on 5 March, 1931, the agitation in Durg District also ended.

Peace in the District was again disturbed when the second Civil Disobedience Movement began, soon after the re-arrest of Mahatma Gandhi on 4th January, 1932 on his return from the Round Table Conference in London. But this time the Government was ready with all necessary punitive measures. The Unlawful Instigation Ordinance (III of 1932)[5] and the Molestation and Boycotting Ordinance (V of 1932) were imposed upon this District.[6]

Narsingh Prasad Agarwala, pleader of Balod, was on 12 February, 1932 sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 150, on the charge of abetment of molestation by Congress volunteers of persons who went to purchase opium and liquor at Balod and directed picketting. At the same time the same punishment was imposed on him on the same day for harbouring in his house several Congress volunteers who had been engaged in preventing persons from purchasing foreign goods and picketting excise and other shops.[7]

The struggle for freedom continued unabated in the District, reaching wider sections of the people. On 29th May, 1932 the Conference of Provincial Congress Committee was to take place at Nagpur. Ghanshyam Singh Gupta was the

1. Ibid., p. 28.
2. Ibid., p. 3.
3. Ibid., p. 19.
4. Note on the Civil Disobedience Movement in C. P. and Berar (31st December, 1930), p. 16
5. Ibid., (January, 1932 to 17 March, 1933), p. 6.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., p. 16.

President-elect of the conference. But this meeting could not take place as the reception committee was declared to be an unlawful assembly and its building seized. G. S. Gupta was arrested before he could reach Nagpur.[1] Thus by the 18th March, 1933 the total number of convictions, in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement in Durg District, reached 84, of which 3 were boys below 16 years of age.[2]

The agitation did not end here. On the 4th May, 1933 Narsing Prasad Agarwala, addressed a public meeting held at Deokar. He exhorted his audience to overthrow the British Government which had been responsible for the massacre of small children in the Jallianwala bagh, the outraging of the modesty of women of Peshawar and inhuman treatment to the *Satyagrahis*. He was ordered to execute a bond of Rs. 1,000 with one surety for a like amount for his good behaviour for one year. As he did not furnish this security, he was ordered to undergo simple imprisonment for one year.[3]

On account of participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement, Narsing Prasad Agarwala and V. Y. Tamaskar of Durg were suspended from practising law from 4th October and 20th October, 1932, respectively. V. Y. Tamaskar, however, applied for and was given permission to resume practice from 30th November, 1933.[4]

On the 7th April, 1934 the Civil Disobedience Movement was called off by Mahatma Gandhi. The leaders then started organising people for a future freedom fight. At Durg, on the 26th February, 4th May and 30th May, 1935 meetings were organized by the Congress. Narsing Prasad Agarwala delivered fiery speeches in these meetings against the Government. He was, therefore, again ordered to execute a bond of Rs. 1,000 with two sureties each of a like amount or, in default of furnishing such security, to undergo one year's simple imprisonment. His appeal against the order was dismissed on the 7th April, 1937 by the Additional Sessions Judge, Raipur.[5]

The elections of early 1937 saw Congress Ministry established in the Central Provinces. It was a phenomenal success for the Congress. On the 4th July, Dr. N. B. Khare formed the First Congress Ministry consisting of six other ministers.

In the year 1938 *Seva Dal* was formed in Khairagarh (then State) with the object of social service. Vazid Ali, Sukh Ramji and Padumlal Punnalal Bakshi were the main workers of this *Seva Dal*. In the same year State Congress was established in Chhuikhadan (then State) in which the agriculturists took much interest.

1. Note on the Second Civil Disobedience Movement, p. 2.
2. Ibid., Appendix II, p. ii.
3. A Compilation of Important Political Trials, p. 23.
4. Ibid., Appendix A, p. ii.
5. Case File No. 1357 of 1935 of Durg District.

Soon after, in 1939 the Second World War broke out and the Congress refused "Co-operation in a war which is conducted on imperialistic lines" and the ministry resigned in November 1939. This was followed by the Individual *Satyagraha* and revival of Forest *Satyagraha*, and Durg once more became active. In the Individual *Satyagraha*, Mahatma Gandhi initially allowed 550 freedom fighters from the Mahakoshal Region to offer Individual *Satyagraha*. Of these 72 were from Durg. Later more people were allowed by Gandhiji to offer *Satyagraha*. Of the 2761 persons, who offered *Satyagraha* from Mahakoshal till May 1941, 107 were from Durg.

Meanwhile, Forest *Satyagraha* was revived at many places in the District. At Dondi-Lohara, however, this *Satyagraha* was against the Zamidarin and the *Diwan*, launched by Sarju Prasad Agarwal, the younger brother of Narsing Prasad Agarwal. In course of the agitation from 1937 to 1940, this *Satyagraha* bore a political colour but was confined to the Dondi-Lohara tract only. By the end of 1939, about 75 persons including Narsing Prasad Agarwal were convicted in that affair.[1] The Forest *Satyagraha*, at the same time, was arranged in Chhuikhadan and Rajnandgaon tracts also. The *Satyagraha* at Rajnandgaon was led by Thakur Lotan Singh.

In the year 1940-41 a number of Congress workers participated in the Individual *Satyagraha* and were fined or convicted. On the 27th April, 1942, at the call of Mahatma Gandhi, people started marching on foot to the direction of Delhi, leaving behind a trail of anti-British feeling. Faced by this dramatic turn of the situation, the Government decided to arrest volunteers and send them to jails in their home districts.

From now onwards the country moved irresistably to a final clash. On the 8th August, 1942, the All India Congress Committee launched the 'Quit India' Movement. The Government reacted vigorously by declaring the Congress illegal and arrested its top leaders. Leaders from Madhya Pradesh along with the District leaders were also arrested at Malkapur. In Chhuikhadan and Rajnandgaon tract also the impact of the 'Quit India' Movement was felt. A number of persons were arrested from the States and convicted by the administration for varying periods. Youth organisation was very active in this movement. Chhattisgarh Sabha, Navayuvak Mandal, Durg Kisan Shabha and Satnami Asharam were other institutions which helped the Freedom Movement.

From this time onwards the movement lost its violence. Months passed by, sullen, suppressed, people now and them erupted in brief outbursts of anger. So the matters rested till the end of 1944. The end of the Second World War left the British Empire in a weak state. It was no longer the invincible leviathan that it used to be. It naturally, therefore, brought about a radical change in its

1 Drug District Case File No. 15, Agrarian Trouble in Dondi-Lohara.

2 Central Provinces and Berar Gazette, Extra-Ordinary Military and Political Department, dated August 9, 1942.

outlook. In May, 1945 Mahatma Gandhi was released from detention on the ground of ill health. Shortly afterwards the Labour Government came into power in Britain. The new Government decided to hold elections, which took place at the beginning of 1946. The results were overwhelmingly in favour for the Congress. About this time the trial of the Indian National Army prisoners created another wave of popular demonstrations. More dangerous still was the mutiny in Royal Indian Navy, besides the Police strike of Bihar. These developments in the background and world opinion in the foreground made the British Government declare its intention of leaving India by June, 1948, and they appointed Lord Mountbatten as Viceroy to carry out the transfer of power. Indian Independence Act was passed through the British Parliament on the 1st July, 1947. At the mid-night of 15th August, 1947 India became independent.

The History of Freedom Movement in erstwhile States of the District

Rajnandgaon

The people of Rajnandgaon tract have their own share in the freedom struggle. When the First Civil Disobedience Movement started, the Government school, Rajnandgaon was boy-cotted by the students and the Rashtriya school was set up. This institution received wide public support. Rice was donated by them, and the teachers received financial aid out of the sale proceeds of that rice. The details of the nationalist movement in the State prior to the year 1924 have already been narrated in the previous pages.

In 1939, when the Forest *Satyagraha* was launched in the District, *Satyagraha* was organised at Badratola village near Dongargaon on the 21st January, 1939. The State Police fired upon the *Satyagrahis*, in which Ramadhin Gond was killed and many were injured.

The firing, instead of damping peoples' spirit, provoked them to intensify their struggle.[1] On the 5th February, 1939 a meeting was held at Rajnandgaon Railway Station to decide the future course of action. However, on receipt of a telegram of Mahatma Gandhi from Wardha, the *Satyagraha* was stopped.

After Independence, the State was merged with the Indian Union. In 1951, it was merged in Durg District and made a tahsil.

Khairagarh

The freedom-struggle in the Khairagarh tract could be traced from the year 1919-20. Ratnakar Jha was very active during the First Civil Disobedience Movement in the State and promoted the Congress propaganda. A brief reference has already been made in the previous pages about the progress of the movement from 1920 to 1942. The 'Quit India' Movement had some impact upon the State.

1. Drug District Political Case File, Regarding Political Troubles in Rajnandgaon State.
2. Ibid,

Natthu Barai was convicted and sentenced for nine months' imprisonment in connection with this movement. In the year 1945 efforts were made by Eknath and Chhotelal to establish State Congress in the State. At first they were arrested and sent out of the state, but ultimately the State Congress was established in the same year. After Independence, like other States this State was also merged in the Indian Union.

Chhuikhadan

People of Chhuikhadan tract were politically conscious from the year 1934. They organized themselves and the State Congress was established on the 21st November, 1938. Agriculturists took great interest in the Congress activities. The Forest *Satyagraha* in 1939 had its impact in this State also. On the morning of 24 January, 1939, 11 Congress volunteers proceeded from village Champatola to Gandai to offer Forest *Satyagraha*. The State Police arrested some of the *Satyagrahis* but a few volunteers escaped and managed to return to Champatola. They were subsequently arrested and brought to Chhuikhadan. Samaru Barai is said to be one of the leaders of the *Satyagrahis*.[1]

Raja Ritupurna Das took interest in the administration and tried to redress the grievances of the people. A session of the Chhuikhadan State congress was held on the 15th November, 1946 at Chhuikhadan.

After Independence, like other States, this State was also merged with the Indian Union.

Merger of the States

With the transfer of power to Indian hands, paramountcy stood withdrawn and the Indian States assumed an independent status. The Government of India was busy evolving a scheme of permanent relationship with the Indian States. It also took note of the condition of the smaller States, specially of the Orissa and Chhattisgarh States. To develop contacts with these States a Liaison Officer was appointed at Sambalpur, whose status was later raised to that of a Regional Commissioner. At the same time a Deputy Regional Commissioner was posted at Raipur for the Chhattisgarh States.[2] Of the 15 States in Chhattisgarh, Durg District now comprises 4, namely, Khairagarh, Kawardha, Rajnandgaon and Chhuikhadan.

Ever since the announcement of the Cabinet Mission proposals, some of the rulers of Orissa and Chhattisgarh States had been thinking of forming a separate union. These rulers met at the Rajkumar College at Raipur and formed the Eastern States Union which had started functioning from the 1st August, 1947. The two bigger States, Mayurbhanj and Bastar, as well as some smaller States had kept themselves aloof. The Union had a constitution with a Premier, a Chief Secretary, a joint police organisation under an Inspector-General of Police and

1. Drug District, Miscellaneous Semi-Official Correspondence File for 1939.
2. V. P. Menon, The Story of the Integration of the Iudian States, p. 144.

an appellate court, but no legislature. It was financed by contributions from the constituent States. The head of the police organisation was an Englishman.[1]

The Eastern States Union was not a homogeneous unit and was irrational both on the ground of linguistic and ethical diversities, as well as on geographical considerations. The Government of India did not consider the Union viable and was, therefore, in no mood to recognise it. It was also not considered feasible to constitute a separate Union of the Chhattisgarh States as they were scattered all-over the Central Provinces. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was opposed to the creation of two separate Unions of the Orissa and the Chhattisgarh Stats.[2]

In the meantime cracks were developing in the Eastern States Union. At a meeting of the Council of Rulers, Raja Bahadur Birendra Bahadur of Khairagarh presented a note, favouring full and unconditional co-operation with the neighbouring provinces, including, if necessary, the merger of the states. Many other rulers were of the view that each State should decide for itself and that the Eastern States Union be dissolved. To save the Union, the rulers of Korea and Patna, accompanied by the ruler of Khairagarh went to Delhi on the 1st December, 1947 and they pressed for the recognition of the Union. But they were told by Sardar Patel that their future lay with the adjoining provinces. He emphasized upon the need to dissolve the Eastern States Union.[3]

What followed is history. Sardar Patel met the rulers of the Chhattisgarh States at Nagpur at 4.30 p m. on the 15th December, 1947. Mangaldas Pakvasa, Governor of the Central Provinces, Ravi Shankar Shukla, the Premier and Dwarka Prasad Mishra, the Home Minister were present. The ruler of Kawardha sought protection of the States in the manner the British had protected them and was prepared to accept the paramountcy of the Dominion Government. But the redoubtable Sardar told him that the idea of paramountcy was incompatible in Independent India and that without accession protection from internal disorders could not be assured. Thereafter, rulers of ten States, including the rulers of Khairagarh, Kawardha and Chhuikhadan and the Regent Rani of Rajnandgaon, signed the merger agreement.

1. Ibid., pp. 145-46.
2. Ibid., pp. 150-52.
3. Ibid., pp, 160-61.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Constituted in 1906, Durg has a population of 18.85 lakh persons on a land area of 7,500.29 sq. miles (19,425·76 sq. km.).[1] According to 1961 Census, 16,49,682 or 87.5 per cent of the District population lived in rural areas and 2,35,554 or 12.5 per cent in urban. Durg District ranked third in the State in order of population, with 18,85,236 persons, which represented 27.23 per cent increase over the 1951 population figure. The density of the District was 251 persons per square mile in 1961.

Divided in six tahsils, the population distribution seems to be very uneven amongst them. Durg Tahsil being the most populated, is trailed by Sanjari-Balod Tahsil with a margin of 1.39 lakhs and Bemetara Tahsil with a margin of 2.03 lakhs.

Tahsil-wise break up of population and area is shown in the following Table:—

Tahsil	No. of Villages	Area in 1961		Population			Density per Sq. mile
		Sq. miles	Sq. kms.	Male	Female	Total	
Kawardha	718	638.29	1,653.17	84,978	87,490	172,468	270
Khairagarh	671	879.04	2,276.71	110,732	114,644	225,376	256
Bemetara	724	1,101.69	2,853.38	154,579	162,427	317,006	288
Rajnandgaon	510	749.37	1,940.87	132,400	136,619	269,019	359
Durg	605	1,160.93	3,006.81	274,946	245,154	520,100	448
Sanjari Balod	1,039	1,482.67	3,840.12	188,519	192,748	381,267	257
District Total	4,267	7,500.29	19,425.76	946,154	939,082	1,885,236	251

Note—1. The State area figures for the District include the forest area of 1,488.3 sq. miles (3,854.7 sq. kms.). As Tahsil-wise break up of this area is not available, it is not included in tahsil area figures.)

2. According to the State Survey Department the revised District area (1962-63) was 19,419.75 sq. km. (7,498 sq. miles). Kawardha Tahsil extended to 3,180.5 sq. km. (1,228 sq. miles), Khairagarh Tahsil 3,227 sq. km (1,246 sq. miles), Bemetara Tahsil 2,854 sq. km. (1,102 sq. miles), Rajnandgaon Tahsil 2,124 sq. km. (820 sq. miles), Durg Tahsil 2,971 sq. km. (1,147 sq. miles) and Sanjari Balod Tahsil 5,063 sq. km. (1,955 sq. miles)

1. According to Survey or-General of India, the area of the District was 7,576 sq. miles (19,621.84 sq. km.) in 1961.

Rural area comprising 4,267 villages (226 uninhabited) extending over an area of 7,429 sq. miles (19,241.12 sq. kms.) contained 87.5 per cent of the District population leaving 12.5 per cent in eight urban centres, extending over an area of 71.29 sq. miles (184.64 sq. kms.) in 1961. This gave an average rural-density as 222 and urban-density as 3,304 persons per sq. miles.

Hindus are most numerous in the District, constituting 96.22 per cent of population. These include 15 Scheduled Castes and 32 Scheduled Tribes, listed under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists (Modification) Order, 1956. The Scheduled Castes constituted 206,872 or 10.97 per cent and the Scheduled Tribes 208,777 or 11.07 per cent of the total population, according to 1961 Census. Numerically important Scheduled Castes are Chamar (including Satnami and Surjyabanshi), Mehra and Ganda while Gonds, Halbas and Kawars constituted numerically important Scheduled Tribes in the District.

Proportion of Sex

The Table below shows the growth of male and female population and changes in the sex-ratio in the present Century:—

Year	Population			Sex-Ratio (No. of females per 1000 males)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Rural	Urban
1901	1,038,375	4,94,843	5,43,532	1,099	1,099	1,064
1911	1,221,447	5,87,527	6,33,920	1 079	1,080	1,039
1921	1,116,973	5,32,665	5,84,308	1,097	1,099	1,048
1931	1,262,192	6,04,236	6,57,956	1,089	1,093	978
1941	1,415,552	6,83,917	7,31,635	1,070	1.073	1.004
1951	1,481,756	7,20,392	7,61,364	1,057	1,059	1,017
1961	1,885,236	9,46,154	9,39,082	993	1,041	706

All through the first five census decades, the females maintained their edge over the males. It appears to be in consonance with the general demographic pattern of the region in which Durg is situated. However, the last decade, 1951-61, recorded 993 females per 1,000 males for the District. The rural sex-ratio still maintained the time-honoured feminine-preponderance over the males, though with a slightly reduced majority (1041). However, the urban sex-ratio recorded 706 females per 1,000 males against 1,017 in 1951.

According to 1961 Census, amongst the tahsils, the plain region of Bemetra Tahsil showed the highest sex-ratio (1051) followed by Khairagarh (1035), Rajnandgaon (1032), Kawardha (1030) and Sanjari Balod (1022). Durg Tahsil which is largely a plain area, and contains the industrial township of Bhilainagar, registered as low as 892 females per 1,000 males in 1961. The Bhilai industrial township, with a population of 86,116, recorded a sex-ratio of 486 females per 1,000 males only.

Apart from the various causes influencing sex-ratio, advanced from time to time in the Census Reports, the major single factor in respect of this District has been the establishment of Bhilai Steel Project, and consequent establishment of an industrial township, and the mining township of Rajhara—Jharandalli during the last decade. The influx of large labour force in these projects, tilted the sex-ratio heavily in favour of males during the last decade. It is well known that in an industrial area, the sex-ratio is generally low particularly when it is new. As for other factors, the District has been perhaps an exception to a general remark made by W. H. Shoobert in 1931[1] about the sex-ratio. According to him the influenza epidemic of 1918-19, known to have been more severe on female-folk, and secondly the absence in recent years of famine mortality, were the foremost causes disturbing the sex ratio. But from the foregoing table it may be seen that the sex-ratio further advanced to 1,097 during the 1911-21 decade against 1,079 in 1911.

Interesting observations emanate from the classification of sex-ratio in various age-groups according to 1961 Census. In the age-groups 0-4 (1012), 5-9 (1034), 20-24 (1037), 40-44 (1028), 50-54 (1019), 55-59 (1165), the feminine excess is recorded, whereas masculine-excess is most noticeable in 25-29 agegroup (837 per 1000) males). A sudden drastic drop in the sex-ratio in the agegroup of 25-29 and sudden spurt after 55 years of age is a curious phenomenon.

The sex-ratio in the category of 'cultivators' (1,059) and 'agricultural labourers' (1,049), showed feminine-preponderance which establishes the fact that women in this District, associate more with men in the pursuit of economic activities. However, non-agricultural occupations attracted them least where the lowest sex-ratio is recorded in the category of 'manufacturing other than household industry', viz., 83 females per 1,000 males.

Among the language-groups the Chhattisgarhi and Gondi mother-tongues showed large feminine-preponderance in the sex-ratio. There were 1,071 females per 1,000 males among the Gondi speakers and 1,054 among the Chhattisgarhi speakers.

Prior to the formation of Durg in 1906, the census history of the District is common with that of Raipur and Bilaspur Districts, which at that time covered an area of about 20,000 sq. miles. It is out of these two districts mainly, that most of the portions of Durg were drawn. The former gave 3,444 sq. miles and the latter 706 sq. miles of area. The newly constituted District had a population of 6,28,885 persons on a land area of 3,807 sq. miles in 1901.

The variation in the District population since 1901, is shown in the following Table:—

1. Census of India, 1931, C. P. and Berar, Pt. I, p. 152.

Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1901	1,038,375		
1911	1,221,447	+ 183,072	+ 17.63
1921	1,116,973	— 104,474	— 8.55
1931	1,262,192	+ 145,219	+ 13.00
1941	1,415,552	+ 153,360	+ 12.15
1951	1,481,756	+ 66,204	+ 4.68
1961	1,885,236	+ 403,480	+ 27.23

The opening decade of the century, which has been characterized as generally healthy, registered an increase of 17.63 per cent in the population. During this decade the birth-rate averaged fairly high and death-rate low, except for a rise in 1908 owing to the failure of the 1907 rice-crop which caused some distress. The serious out-break of cholera, high mortality from fever and other diseases that followed, however, increased the number of deaths from 23.438 (37.27 per *mille*) in 1906 to 27,917 (41.27 per *mille*) in 1910. But the number of births also increased from 31,058 (49.38 per *mille*) to 40,433 (59.78 per *mille*) during the same period, thus off-setting most of the losses on account of high mortality and large emigration of Chamars and others of the labouring class, who emigrated in search of work on the railways and the coal-mines of Bengal.[1]

By the end of the decade 1911-21, the District population was 1,116,973 or about 8.55 per cent less than a decade ago. However, urban population rose considerably. As is well known in the demographic history of the then Central Province, the decade 1911-21 was not a happy sailing The reasons were, first, there was scarcity in 1918-19, due to the failure of monsoon and, secondly, there occured a fulminating epidemic of influenza during the same period. The number of actual births and deaths during the year 1918 was 36,513 and 68,997, respectively, and in the following year 28,202 and 43,155, respectively. Reduced to rate per *mille* of population, the death-rate mounted to 88.95 in 1918 from 34.90 in 1911. It remained much above the birth-rate during the following years till 1921. However, it was observed that "The vital statistics show the population to have increased by 31,000 since 1911, while there is fall of 32,000. It appears that the difference is to a large extent due to the effects of emigration."[2] The districts and States of Chhattisgarh, where the Chamars had been perhaps the most mobile class of labour in the Province, were the favourite haunts of the labour recruiters The losses on account of emigration to contiguous districts in the Province amounted to 54,000 and 31,000 persons went to other parts of the Province, whereas the immigration amounted to 36,000 and 25,000 only from the respective areas.

1. Durg District Gazetteer, p. 53.
2. Census of India, 1921, C. P. & Berar, Pt. I. p. 23.

From 1921 onwards there has been in the succeeding decades a continuous increase, though the increase during 1941-51 was only 4.68 per cent. During the last sixty years of the demographic history of the District, the largest increase came about during the decade of 1951-61, when 27.23 per cent increase in population was registered. It may be seen that while the rural increase amounted to only 17.55 per cent, the urban population showed 200.53 per cent increase during this decade. This abnormal increase in the urban population is mainly due to rise of Bhilai Steel Project on the industrial horizon of the District. Consequently. the establishment of Bhilai Industrial Township and the mining township of Rajhara-Jharandalli, with a population of 27,224 and 7,722, respectively, came into being in 1961.

Whereas the number of immigrants per *mille* of actual population from other districts of the State amounted to 62 in 1931, the proportion went down to 41 per *mille* only in 1951. The immigration from outside the State increased from 5 per *mille* in 1931 to 8 per *mille* in 1951. Table given below gives the actual immigrant population according to Census of 1951 and 1961.

Where born	1951			1961		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1. Born in other districts of the State	61,353	18,347	43,006	100,204	38,284	61,920
2. Born in States in India beyond Madhya Pradesh	8,778	4,738	4,040	118,343	78,128	40,215
3. Born in countries beyond India	2,338	1,296	1,042	9,087	6,151	2,936
Unclassifiable	—	—	—	1,314	577	737
Total Immigrant Population	72,469	24,381	48,088	228,948	123,140	1,05,808

It may be seen that immigration from States in India beyond Madhya Pradesh, during the decade of 1951-61, assumed a formidable place in the District population. From 6 per *mille* in 1951, the States accounted for 63 per *mille* in 1961. The chief among the suppliers were Maharashtra (28,439), Andhra Pradesh (17,787) and Uttar Pradesh (18,470) The foreigners who numbered only 2,338 in 1951, increased to 9,087 in 1961. Besides 7,126 from Pakistan and 1,152 from Nepal, the number of Russians was the largest, viz . 599, (367 males and 232 females). Similarly, the immigrants from other districts of the State also improved from 41 per *mille* in 1951, to 54 per *mille* in 1961. Of these, Raipur and Bilaspur alone accounted for 46,354 and 24,948 immigrants, respectively, or slightly less than three-fourths of the immigrants from other districts of the State.

As said earlier, these factors led to an unprecedented growth in the District population during the last decade, and recorded a population of 18,85,236 in 1961. The males numbered 9,46,154 and females 9,39,082. During the last sixty

years (1901 to 1961), the population registered an over all increase of 81.56 per cent. While rural population increased by 63.28 per cent, the urban population increased by 739.30 per cent over the same period.

Density of Population

In 1891 the plain country of Durg was the most thickly populated rural area in the Province, but it suffered severely during the famine of 1897, and the density of Durg Tahsil in 1901 was found to be 209 persons per square mile. Bemetara and Sanjari Baloda Tahsils, then recorded a density of 154 and 106 respectively. Since then the density of Durg Tahsil has increased to 447.9, and that of Bemetara and Sanjari Balod to 287.6 and 257.9, respectively, in 1961.Kawardha Tahsil, which was a feudatory State of the same name with a density of 81 persons in 1901 increased to 270.3 persons per sq. mile in 1961. Similarly, the erstwhile Khairagarh State which had the density of 147 persons in 1901, increased to 256.4 in 1961. Rajnandgaon Tahsil registered a density of 359.1 persons. The over all density of population in the District, according to Census 1961, was found to be 251.3 against 226 in 1951.

The District density is much above the average State density which was 192 in 1961, according to State Survey Department area figure, and was also the highest amongst the districts of Raipur Division.

The following Table compares the Tahsil-wise density according to 1951 and 1961 Censuses:—

Tahsil	Density (per sq. mile)					
	1951			1961		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Kawardha	265	226	13,362	270	255	6,527
Khairagarh	210	193	4,419	256	230	5,484
Bemetara	191	191	—	288	288	—
Rajnandgaon	295	266	4,236	359	301	9,137
Durg	298	281	10,125	448	348	2,781
Sanjari Balod	160	160	—	257	243	1,862
Khamariya	2,396	2,396	—	—	—	—
Dongargarh	258	218	5,598	—	—	—
Chhuikhadan	241	223	3,343	—	—	—
District Density	226	214	6,250	251	222	3,304

(Note:-In 1951, there were nine tahsils in the District. But in 1961, the tahsil boundaries were reconstituted to form six tahsils by abolishing the tahsils of Khamariya, Dongargarh and Chhuikhadan).

The industrial and commercial growth of the urban areas has largely been responsible for the high urban density in the District. The largest urban density has been recorded in Rajnandgaon (9,137), as compared with the average urban density of the District, which was as low as 3,304. Taking total area into consideration, the density of Bhilainagar was still lower, i.e., 2,145, which however, does not present the correct picture so far as the density of population from the point of view of congestion is concerned. It is so because substantial proportion of the area of the industrial township is either covered by the factory, or is open. The population density of towns was as follows according to 1961 Census.

Town	Area (sq. miles)	Density
Kawardha	1.55	6.527
Chhuikhadan	1.07	3,260
Khairagarh	0.97	6,779
Dongargarh	2.37	5,957
Rajnandgaon	4.89	9,137
Durg (Town Group)	47.90	2,781
Durg (Municipality)	7.76	6,071
Bhilainagar (Industrial township)	40.14	2,145
Rajhara-Jharandalli (Mining colony)	12.54	1,862

The rural areas still present a picture of sparse living, though not necessarily devoid of congestion. The rural density shows only 222 persons per sq. mile according to 1961 Census against 214 in 1951. Amongst the tahsils, Khairagarh with 230 persons per sq. mile registered the lowest, while Durg Tahsil with 348, registered the highest density in 1961.

Rural and Urban Population

Durg, according to 1961 Census had 4,267 villages (226 uninhabited) and eight towns. The rural areas covering 7,429.00 sq. miles (19,241.12 sq. kms.) had a population of 16,49,682. The urban area extended over 71.29 sq. miles (184.64 sq kms.), and had 2,35,554 persons in 1961. The former recorded a density of 222 against 3,304 for the latter.

The following Table gives the rural and urban population of the District in tahsil break-up.

Tahsil	No. of Villages		No. of Towns	Population		
	Inhabited	Uninhabited		Total	Rural	Urban
Kawardha	634	84	1	172.468	162,351	10,117
Khairagarh	604	67	3	225,376	201,193	24,183
Bemetara	699	25	—	317,006	317,006	—
Rajnandgaon	501	9	1	269,019	224,341	44,678
Durg	591	14	2	520,100	386,870	1,33,230
Sanjari-Balod	1,012	27	1	381,267	357,921	23,346
District Total	4,041	225	8	1,885,236	1,649,682	235,554

Classified by population 71.35 per cent of villages in Durg District has less than 500 persons on an average and covered 42.55 per cent of the total population. Similarly, the majority of the rest of the village in Durg ranged between 500 to 999 population, viz., 23.75 per cent, while villages with 1000 and above population accounted for 4.89 per cent of the villages. The population in the former category was recorded to be 39.57 per cent, and the rest 17.88 per cent of the population resided in villages in the population range of 1,000 and above. Compared with 1951 Census, small villages with less than 500 persons show a lesser proportion in 1961, while considerable increase in the proportion of villages in other higher ranges was observed.

Durg Tahsil, with two urban centres accounted for the largest urban population in the District. It is also the headquarters-town of the District. Bemetara Tahsil continued to be entirely a rural area in 1961. During the last 60 years since 1901, the growth in urban area has been spectacular, and most of it has come during the last decade only. The variation in rural and urban population during this Century is given in the inset below:—

Year	Rural		Urban	
	Population	Percentage decade variation	Population	Percentage decade variation
1901	1,010,312	--	28,063	—
1911	1,190,991	+17.88	30 456	+ 8.53
1921	1,077,130	— 9.56	39,843	+30.82
1931	1,215,299	+12 83	46,893	+17.69
1941	1,355,441	+11.51	60,111	+28.19
1951	1,405,102	+ 3.54	76,654	+30.39
1961	1,649,682	+17.55	2,35,554	+200.53

Over a span of 60 years, the rural population grew by only 63.28 per cent whereas the urban pupulation swelled by 739.38 per cent. Most of the increase in urban population had been during the decade of 1951-61. when it registered 200.53 per cent increase. This abnormal rise is mainly due to the establishment of Bhilai Steel Project and consequent establishment of Bhilai Township and the mining township of Rajhara-Jharandalli.

Whereas the urban population increased steadily in each successive census decade. The rural population declined by 9.56 per cent in 1921, owing to the unhealthy and famine stricken decade of 1911-21.

The District had eight urban centres in 1961, against seven in 1951. Pipariya which was a town in 1951, ceased to be a town in 1961. Two new townships. viz., Bhilainagar Industrial Township, and the Rajhara-Jharandalli, a mining township. grew around the iron-ore mine feeding the Steel Factory, have emerged in Census 1961. The Population of these towns at different censuses between 1901

and 1961, beginning with the year in which they were first enumerated as town is shown in the following Table:—

Name of Town	Population						
	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961
Durg Tahsil							
1. Durg (M)	..	7,048	11,274	13,172	16,765	20,249	47,114
2. Bhilainagar (Industrial Township)	..	..	..	..	..	..	86,116
Rajnandgaon Tahsil							
3. Rajnandgaon (M)	11,094	11,979	12,631	15 977	19,039	23,300	44,678
Kawardha Tahsil							
4. Kawardha (M)	4,372	5,180	4,773	5,052	6,210	11,642	10,117
Khairagarh Tahsil							
5. Chhuikhadan (M)	2,085	(Declassified)	..	..	3,190	3,343	3,488
6. Khairagarh (M)	4,656	(Declassified)	4,045	4,159	5,015	5,524	6,576
7. Dongargarh (M)	5,856	6,249	7,120	8,533	9,891	12,596	14,119
Sanjari Balod Tahsil							
8. Rajahara-Jharandalli (Mining Colony)	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,346

* (M=Municipality)

Durg Town Group which includes the Bhilainagar Industrial Township and the Municipal areas of Durg, is a Class I town. In the category of Class III towns are Rajnandgaon, Rajhara-Jharandalli and Dongargarh, Kawardha (Class IV) Khairagarh (Class V) and Chhuikhadan (Class VI) are other towns which were in existence in 1901 also.

Census 1971[1]

Registering a growth rate of 30.57 per cent during 1961-71 decade against 27.23 per cent in the preceeding decade, Durg manifested a population explosion, breaking all records of past growth rates. Returning a population of 2,461,525 persons (12,34,661 males and 12,26,864 females) in 1971, Durg relegated Bilaspur to the third place from the prestigious first position in 1961. It assumed the second and Raipur the first place in population-ranking in Census 1971. The reason is not far to seek for this change in inter-ranking of Raipur, Durg and Bilaspur—the three most populous districts of the State—containing, respectively, 6.27 per cent, 5.91 per cent and 5.86 per cent of the State's population in descending order of ranking. Rapid industrialisation of Durg and Raipur districts in the wake of fuller utilization of the capacity of the Bhilai Steel Plant (Durg District), giving rise to ancillary units and consequent urbanization, has resulted in its improved status.

1. Census of India, Paper I of 1971, Provisional Population Totals.

Though the density has moved from 96 to 125, the sex-ratio has almost maintained a statusquo at 994 in 1971 against 993 in 1961. Galloping to 396,916 population in urban areas, against 235,554 in 1961, the District recorded a growth rate of 68.50 per cent during the decade 1961-71, there by improving the urban proportion to total population to 16.12 per cent against 12.49 a decade ago. Durg-Bhilainagar urban agglomeration has been mainly responsible for the phenomenon which recorded a growth of 84.14 over 1961.

Displaced Persons

The number of total displaced persons enumerated in Census 1951, was 2,336. Of these 1,302 were males and 1,034 females. These people came to the District during the years following the Partition of the country in 1947. Largest of them came from Gujarat, numbering 817, Dadu (490) Sukkur (379), Larkhana (189), Nawabshal (114) were other prominent places from where they immigrated.

The distribution of displaced persons according to Census 1951, in tahsil break-up, is shown in the following Table:—

Tahsil (Rural)	Displaced Persons			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	Persons	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Durg	99	60	39	3	6	57	33
Bemetara	278	149	129	—	—	149	129
Sanjari	93	66	27	..	..	66	27
Rajnandgaon	30	20	10	..	2	20	8
Khairagarh & Khamariya	18	11	7	..	..	11	7
Dongargarh	4	2	2	..	..	2	2
Kawardha	1	1	..	..	..	1	..
Chhuikhadan	..	..	—	..	..	..	..
Rural Total	523	309	214	3	8	306	206
Non-City Urban	1,813	993	820	..	..	993	820
District Total	2,336	1,302	1 034	3	8	1,299	1,026

It is remarkable that almost all these persons engaged themselves in the non-agricultural pursuits, which explains their concentration in non-city urban areas. Of the 2,325 displaced persons engaged in non-agricultural pursuits for their livelihood, as large a number as 1,754 alone were engaged in "Commerce." Rajnandgaon and Durg were the towns where most of these persons settled. The former accommodated 653, and the latter 547 displaced persons. They show large concentration in Ward 12 of Rajnandgaon and Durg Municipal area according to Census 1951.

LANGUAGE

In all 92 languages/dialects spoken as mother-tongue have been recorded in the District in Census 1961. The rural and urban distribution of some numercally important languages/dialects is given in the following Table:—

Language/ Dialect	Total			Rural		Urban	
	Persons	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Chhattisgarhi	1,515,536	737,903	777,633	698,706	739,267	39,197	38,366
Hindi	211,588	115,872	95,716	74,866	70,788	41,006	24,928
Marathi	34,721	18,540	16,181	7,981	7,777	10,559	8,404
Gondi	31,034	14,984	16,050	14,794	15,847	190	203
Telugu	19,373	12.785	6,588	2,462	1,024	10,323	5,564
Urdu	12,574	7,125	5,449	1,847	1,590	5,278	3,859
Punjabi	10,549	6,682	3,867	871	560	5,811	3,307
Oriya	8,175	5,217	2,958	1,327	813	3,890	2,145
Malaylam	7,394	6.341	1,053	367	25	5,974	1.028
Bengali	6,317	4,260	2,057	348	172	3,912	1,885
Marwari	6,606	3.485	3,120	1,569	1,513	1,916	1.607
Sindhi	4,308	2,419	1,889	550	340	1,869	1,549
Gujarati	4,710	2,820	1,890	396	316	2,424	1,574
Tamil	3,503	2,194	1,309	184	87	2,010	1,222

The Chhattisgarhi dialect is the commonest mother-tongue being spoken by 80.39 per cent of the population. Its speakers abound in Durg (351,739) and Bemetara tahsils (2,65,806), which is the plain region, and also in the Sanjari Balod Tahsil (312,868) which is a hilly region. In the remaining tahsils also, Chhattisgarhi is the predominant dialect, spoken by 1,29,756 persons in Kawardha, 1,93,557 in Khairagarh and 1,84,247 in Rajnandgaon Tahsil, according to Census 1961. Whereas Hindi showed concentration in the north-eastern tahsils of Kawardha (30,474). Bemetara (47,791) and Rajnandgaon (34,580), Marathi, the third largest language-group showed concentration in south-eastern parts of the District in Sanjari Balod (8,029) Rajnandgaon (2,933), Khairagarh (2,312) and Durg Tahsils (1,942). Telugu which is spoken by 19,373 persons in the District showed more concentration in Durg Tahsil (3,113).

In 1901 the Chhattisgarhi speakers accounted for more than 90 per cent of the District population.- But in 1961, 80.39 per cent of the population returned under Chhattisgarhi. The fall is perhaps be due to the immigration of other speakers, who came in the wake of industrial and commercial growth of the region, in recent years. Chhattisgarhi, the principal dialect of the District is sometimes also called Mahakosali, Laria or Khaltahi. It has been conjectured that the name Mahakosal, the greater Kosala, was made common for Dakshin Kosal or Chhattisgarh by the Chedi-Haihayavanshi rulers of this region to make their kingdom

sound more dignified and their sovereignty seem more pronounced.[1] Hence the vernacular of Mahakosal region is aptly termed as Mahakosali by Suniti Kumar Chatterjee.[2] But the same is rarely used. Grierson in his monumental Linguistic Survey of India has bracketed Laria and Khaltahi with Chhattisgarhi,[3] thus creating the impression that Chhattisgarhi, Laria and Khaltahi are various names of the same dialect. It may be pointed out here that Chhattisgarhi, like Awadhi or Baghelkhandi is a dialect of Eastern Hindi group, while Laria and Khaltahi are sub-dialects or local forms of Chhattisgarhi.[4]

Laria is a sub-dialect of Chhattisgarhi spoken in the eastern parts of Chhattisgarh. Khaltahi too is a sub-dialect of Chhattisgarhi, and has been wrongly termed as an equivalent of it. As on the eastern border of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarhi merges into Oriya through Lariya, on the western border the fusion of Chhattisgarhi and Marathi is processed through the medium of Khaltahi. Khaltahi acts as a buffer between Marathi and Chhattisgarhi and is spoken in western areas of Durg District. The form of speech current in western parts of Kawardha and Khairagarh tahsils is the western most form of Chhattisgarhi bordering on Marathi. Khaltahi, sometimes pronounced as Khalthahi[5] or Khaloti[6] is the speech of the inhabitants of the *Khal* or Lowlands. The plain of Chhattisgarh is low in height in comparison to the Maikal hills hence places like Balaghat, Kawardha, etc., situated at the foot of the Maikal and Saletekri ranges are known as Khaloti. Khaltahi is, thus, the speech used by the inhabitants of Khaloti. Hence Khaltahi speech of a particular area of Chhattisgarh may not be confused with Chhattisgarhi the dialect of the whole of Chhattisgarh region.

The most popular and commonly used name for the dialect generally spoken in Chhattisgarh is Chhattisgarhi. Various attempts have been made to explain the word Chhattisgarh. It is considered to be a corruption of Chedishgarh by some,[7] or Adhisthri by others.[8] The origin of the word Chhattisgarh is also traced from 'Chhattisghar' of Chamars[9] who left Bihar to settle here. The most convincing explanation has been forwarded by Lochan Prasad Pandeya. He writes: "Chhattisgarh means the thirty-six forts." In olden times, it is said, the strength of a kingdom or a native state was measured by the number of its forts. Dewars, a tribe of Chhattisgarhi bards, yet sing songs in praise of old kings and kingdoms stating the number of forts before the name of each of them. From them

1. Baldeo Prasad Mishra, *Chhattisgarh Parichaya*, pp. 101-102.
2. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, *Bharat Ki Bhashayen Aur Bhasha Sambandhi Samasyayen*, p. 151.
3. G. A. Grierson, Linguistic Survey of India, Vol. VI, p 24.
4. Kanti Kumar, *Chhattisgarhi Ki Gramya Jiwan Shabdawali* (thesis for Ph. D. of the Kurukshetra University), p. 48.
5. Dhirendra Varma, *Hindi Bhasha Ka Itihas*, p 66.
6. Udai Narayan Tiwari, *Hindi Bhasha Ka Udgam aur Vikas*, p. 287.
7. Raibahadur Hiralal, *Madhya Pradesh Ka Itihas* (quoted in *Hindi Sahitya Ka Brihat Itihas*, p. 280).
8. Cunningham, quoted in *Bhasha Vigyan Kosh*, p. 223.
9. Bhola Nath Tiwari- *Bhasha Vigyan Kosh*, p. 223.

we have Bawangarh Manla, Chhattisgarh Rattanpur, Attharagarh Samabalpur and so on. It appears that in course of time the first portion—Chhattisgarh—of the full name Chhattisgarh Rattanpur came into use and became the usual name of the *Raj*, while, formerly, it was only a qualifying word.

Chhattisgarhi is, thus, the vernacular of the region known as Chhattisgarh. The word Chhattisgarhi, like the word Chhattisgarh, is of recent origin and does not go back beyond 250 years.[1] *It is clear, therefore, that till the time of Raja Kalyan Shah, who reigned between the years 1536-1573 the name of the prevalent vernacular was not Chhattisgarhi, though the language spoken must have been similar to it.*[2] It is difficult to state whence Chhattisgarhi was introduced into Mahakosala, the ancient name of the country where it is now spoken. But George Grierson considers that Eastern Hindi whose home is Awadh, found its way here through Jabalpur and Mandla It was, perhaps, the ancenstors of Kalyan Shah who brought the language from their ancestral kingdom of Dahal—the country of the Haihayas, which extended from the Narmada to the Ganga as mentioned in the Malkapuram inscription.[3] Thenceforth, owing to its geographical isolation the dialect developed its peculiarities and joined a distinctive name. In its development it has been influenced by Bagheli on the north, by Oriya on the east, by Telugu on the south and by Marathi on the west. It has also been influenced by aboriginal languages, especially Sawari which apparently totally merged into the language of the immigrants.

It is but natural that Chhattisgarhi somewhat resembles its sister dialects of Awadhi and Bagheli, as has been stressed by Grierson. Chhattisgarhi, Bagheli and Awadhi are sister dialects belonging to the same group of languages, and it is not unusual that a certain closeness and similarity exists amongst them.

In the opinion of Grierson, Chhattisgarhi, like its kindred dialects of Awadhi and Baghelkhandi, is derived from the Ardha-Magadhi speech. In the early centuries after the Christian Era there were two main languages or Prakrits spoken in the Jamuna and Ganga valleys. These were Saurseni spoken in the west, its headquarters being upper *Doab*, and Magadhi spoken in the east, with its headquarters in the country south of the present city of Patna. Between these two, there was a debatable ground, roughly corresponding to the present regions of Awadh, Baghelkhand and Chhattisgarh in which a mixed language known as Ardha-Magadhi was spoken partaking partly of the character of Saurseni and partly that of Magadhi. This mixed language or Ardha-Magadhi is considered to be the mother of modern Eastern Hindi, which includes three main dialects—Awadhi, Bagheli and Chhattisgarhi. Baburam Saxena, however, has suggested

1. Lochan Prasad Pandeya, op. cit., p V.
2. Ibid., p. III.
3. Ibid., pp. IV and V.

differently. In his opinion Pali and not Ardha-Magadhi is the mother of Awadhi[1] and other dialects of Eastern Hindi.

Chhattisgarhi as spoken in Durg District may be divided into Standard Chhattisgarhi and Khaltahi. Standard or pure Chhattisgarhi is spoken in Durg, Bemetera, Balod and Rajnandgaon tahsils and eastern parts of Khairagarh and Kawardha tahsils of the District. It may be called the western extension of Central Chhattisgarhi, yet another name for the standard Chhattisgarhi.[2] It resembles in its grammar, vocabulary and phonetic structure with the Chhattisgarhi spoken in Raipur and southern parts of Bilaspur Districts. Peculiarities of Chhattisgarhi are the formation of plural in *man*, as *laikaman*, boys; the instrumental in *an* as *bhukan*, by hunger, and the addition of *har* to a noun to give definition as *garhar*, the neck. *Har* should not be mistaken for Hindi *ne*. Chhattisgarhi does not take the nominative sign of *ne* in the past tense of a transitive verb which is a marked characteristic of Western Hindi. Nor is the verb affected with the change of gender of the object in such sentences as is the case in Hindi.

To indicate the plural *sab*, *sabo*, *subbo*, *Jama* or *jamma* may be prefixed with or without *man*. Thus *jamma putoman*, the daughters-in-law. Similarly, the words *ganj*, *khub*, *barhiyan*, etc., all meaning 'many' are prefixed to form plural. An old form of the plural ends in *an* thus, *baila*, a bullock, plural *bailan*.

As already stated, the post-position of the nominative does not correspond to the Hindi *ne*. In the plural it is rarely used with the suffix *man*, thus *gar-har*, rarely *gar-man-har*, the necks. In the dative, rustics sometimes use *khatir* or *khatar* with or without the genitive post-position *ke* prefixed. In the instrumental and the ablative, the post-positions *ke* and *se* are used without any difference in meaning. The use of *se* is of recent origin and has been borrowed from Hindi. The *ke* of the genitive does not change. The vocative interjections are *e*, *o*, *ga*, *aga* and *ao*, *gu* and *aga* are applied to masculine only and *e* and *ao* to feminine only. *Ho*, *aho*, *ji* and *aji* are used to show respect without any distinction of gender of the noun they are placed before.

There is no difference between the conjugation of transitive and of instransitive verbs. The verbs have two numbers: singular and plural. There are three persons: first, second and third. But there is no distinction of gender. The construction of past tense is usually active not passive. Chhattisgarhi is quite rich in nominal verbs, e.g., *gothiyais*, he/she talked; *latiyais*, he/she kicked; *daharais*, he/she took the path, etc.

The syllables *ch*, *ech* and *o*, och meaning even and also, are profusely used in ordinary conversation. Thus *daich ka*, even to the mother *morech*, even mine; *okro*, his also; *toroch*, they also.

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1. Baburam Saxena, Evolution of Awadhi, pp. 7-8.
2. Kanti Kumar, op. cit., p. 50.

The cardinals are the same as Hindi. The syllable *o* added to a cardinal makes it definitie.

Adjectives are generally formed from nouns by adding some terminations as *i, e, ha, u, uu, au, a, au, ahu, ru, iya, ul, ela, aila, tur, sur*, etc.

The degrees of comparison cannot be indicated by any change in the positive form. The comparative is expressed by putting the object with which another is compared in the ablative (made with the affix) and the superlative by prefixing to the adjective either the adjective itself or the pronoun *sab, sabo, sabbo* meaning all in the ablative case, e.g., comparative *okar le unch*, higher than he; superlative *sabo le achchha*, best.

There is no specific honorific pronoun like *raure* in 'Surgujia'. Various forms of *tun* or *tunh* are used to express respect. The reflexive pronoun *apan*, self is sometimes used for the simple plural of *tun*, it, or *tunh*. When respect is expressed the verb assumes plural form, e.g., *guruji aain hai*, the teacher has come.

Sometimes, 'Kawardhai' and 'Khairagarhi' are also mentioned as sub-dialects of Chhattisgarhi.[1] But they may be included in Khaltahi.[2]

In absence of any recorded tradition, the old form of Chhattisgarhi cannot be ascertained. The oldest and only inscriptional record in the Chhattisgarhi dialect is carved on a stone at Dantewara in Bastar District, in the extreme south of Chhattisgarh. It is doubtful whether that place was even included in Chhattisgarh in olden times, but the inscription was composed by an immigrant from the north.[3] The words and phrases used in the inscription are also used in modern Chhattisgarhi. Similar phraseology is found in the *Padmavat* of Malik Muhammad Jayasi and the *Ram Charita Manas* of Tulsidas. It is natural that similarities of forms should be common in the off-shoot and the parent language. In the poetry of Prahlad Dubey of Sarangarh, who wrote at the end of the 17th Century, pure Chhattisgarhi verbs, unfamiliar to Hindi, have been made to create literature in Chhattisgarhi, and many works of prose and poetry have been published. Some periodicals are also being brought out in Chhattisgarhi. It has also been recognised as a medium for radio and films.

Chhattisgarhi has no script of its own and is commonly written in the *Devanagari* character.

The next largest language-group is of the speakers of Hindi as mother-tongue. According to 1961 Census, 2,11,588 or 11.22 per cent of the population

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1. Bholanath Tiwari, *Hindi Bhasha*, p. 280.
2. Kanti Kumar, op. cit., p. 58.
3. From a note by Rai Bahadur Hiralal in the Epigraphia Indica Vol. XII.

returned under it, as compared with 10,58,070 in Census 1951, The increase of Hindi speakers in the region till 1951, was attributed largely to the "growing tendency of dialects to lose ground gradually to the standard language."[1] Earlier, displacement of Chhattisgarhi by Hindi was noted in Census 1951, but since then the position underwent a reverse tendency in 1961, and it is difficult to hazard a reason for it.

Marathi, which is spoken by 1.84 per cent of the District population, constitutes the third largest language-group in Durg according to Census 1961. In 1901, they numbered 17,000. These figures include the Halbas who have a dialect of their own compounded from Marathi, Oriya and Chhattisgarhi.[2]

A reference to Language Map establishes that the eastern border line of Marathi "passes through the Gondia and Sakoli tahsils of Bhandara District along the western edge of the Sanjari Balod *Zamindaris*, and thus into the border country of Baster State where it merges through Halbi into Oriya."[3] In the then Nandgaon State and Khairagarh, the speakers of Marathi in 1931 were 5,544 and 2,238, respectively. According to Census 1961, the speakers of Marathi in Sanjari Balod Tahsil numbered 8,029 (3,989 males and 4,040 females). Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh and Durg enumerated 2,933, 2,312 and 1,942 speakers, respectively. Kawardha (185) and Bemetara Tahsils (357), however, had insignificant proportion of these speakers.

Gondi was returned by about 7,000 persons in 1901 as compared to 31,034 in Census 1961 and is spoken by 14,984 males and 16,050 females. The Gondi speakers abound to the extent of 98.7 per cent in the rural areas and the rest 1.3 per cent in urban areas. Gondi speakers are largely concentrated in Sanjari Balod Tahsil (27,142), where they form the second largest language-group after Chhattisgarhi. In other tahsils, Rajnandgaon had 1,420, Khairagarh 1,655, Durg 180 and Kawardha 244 Gondi speakers. In 1931, Halbi speakers numbered 92. However, in 1961, all the Halbas have been returned under Chhattisgarhi dialect. Halbi speakers in 1961 were 420.

Bilingualism

The proximity of about 92 diverse dialects has created large areas of bilingualism in the District, as elsewhere. The following table depicts the total bilingual population, and also the principal subsidiary languages spoken by them according to Census 1961.

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1. Census of India, 1951, Madhya Pradesh, Pt. I-A, p. 275.
2. Durg District Gazetteer, p. 55.
3. Census of India, 1931, C. P. and Berar, Pt. I., p. 305.

Mother Tongue	Total Speakers		Mother-tongue and total No. of persons returned as speaking language subsidiary to mother tongue		Principal Subsidiary Language		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Chhattisgarhi	Hindi	Gondi
Chhattisgarhi	7,37,903	777,633	9,118	3,702	—	3,348	3.745
Hindi	1.15,872	95,716	10,810	1.824	271	—	11
Marathi	18,540	16,181	12,216	8,846	6,463	12,829	164
Gondi	14,984	16,050	9,168	8,792	14,440	3,240	—
Telugu	12,785	6.588	3,757	1,121	36	3,146	—
Urdu	7,125	5,449	4,161	2,227	637	5,020	—
Punjabi	6,682	3,867	3,643	1,458	39	3,665	—
Oriya	5,217	2,958	1,439	578	123	1,609	—
Malayalam	6,341	1,053	4,878	250	2	2,234	—
Bengali	4,260	2,057	3,143	1.012	9	2,008	—
Marwari	3,485	3,120	1,784	1,060	596	1,912	—
Sindhi	2,419	1,889	1.274	555	38	1,516	3
Gujarati	2,820	1,890	1.674	875	19	2,111	1
Tamil	2,191	1,309	1,023	452	2	758	—

Chhattisgarhi and Hindi, which together account for 91.61 per cent of the speakers in Durg, appear to be least bilingual. The former contains only 0.8 per cent, and the latter 5.9 per cent speakers, who also speak some subsidiary languages/dialects. Gondi and Hindi among the Chhattisgarhi speakers, and English (9,493) and Urdu (936) among the Hindi speakers are favoured subsidiary languages. However, 60.6 per cent of the Marathi and 57.9 per cent of the Gondi speakers are bilingual. Hindi (12,829) and Chhattisgarhi (6,463) are favoured subsidary languages among the Marathi speakers, and Chhattisgarhi (14,440) and Hindi (3,240) among the Gondi speakers. About 25.2 per cent of the Telugu speakers were bilingual, preferring Hindi as a subsidiary language.

RELIGION AND CASTE

The religious composition of the District presents in 1961 Census a picture of Hindu predominated area, constituting about 96.22 per cent of the District population against 98.6 per cent a decade ago. The next largest group is that of the Muslims, who constituted 1.38 per cent of the population, against 0.99 per cent in 1951. The Buddhists (0.81 per cent), Christians (0.43 per cent), Sikhs (0.41 per cent) and Jains (0.38 per cent) were other numerically important religious groups. About 0.37 per cent of the population professed faith in other religions and persuasions.

The following Table gives the distribution of population by religion in rural and urban areas, according to Census 1961.

Tahsils	Total Rural/ Urban	Hindus	Muslims	Buddhists	Christians	Jains	Sikhs	Other Religions & Persuasions
Kawardha	Rural	159,349	2,049	—	35	24	54	840
Khairagarh	Rural	198,713	1,218	480	103	468	191	20
Bemetara	Rural	313,769	2,187	—	62	432	401	155
Rajnandgaon	Rural	218,672	1,636	3,227	96	511	45	154
Durg	Rural	377,630	2,030	1,397	294	475	371	4,604
Sanjari Balod	Rural	348,096	2,415	5,382	795	897	69	267
Total Rural		1.616,229	11,595	10,466	1,385	3,807	1,131	6,040
Non-city Area (Urban)		86,566	6,079	3,595	1,566	2,631	1,642	245
Durg Town-Group		111,245	8,446	1,133	5,113	1,720	4,880	82
District Total		1 ,814,040	26,120	15,214	8,064	7,158	7,653	6,367

The ranks of Hindus also include the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who numbered 206,872 or 10.97 per cent and 208,777 or 11.07 per cent, respectively, of the District population. Barring 11 Scheduled Caste persons who profess Sikhism, and five of Scheduled Tribes who profess Christianity, etc., all of them profess faith in Hinduism.

During the course of the census history from 1891, the Hindus swelled from 8,640 per 10,000 of the population in 1891, to 9,719 in 1931, and to 9,622 in 1961. Similarly, Muslims who constituted 101 per 10.000 of the population in 1891, declined to 90 in 1931 but again increased to 138 per 10,000 of population in 1961.

While Durg, Sanjari Balod and Bemetra tahsils (Rural) showed concentration of Hindus, Muslims were concentrated in Sanjari Balod, Bemetara and Kawardha. Buddhism, which has recently showed signs of resurgence in the region, assumed the third important place in the religious composition of the District. Sanjari Balod and Rajnandgaon (rural) showed particular concentration of Buddhists, where their population was recorded to be 5,382 and 3,227, respectively, as compared to only 3 in 1951. The Christians (82.8 per cent), Jains (60.8 per cent) and Sikhs (85.2 per cent) are concentrated in urban areas.

Hindus

In the absence of latest caste-composition of the District, the only source to fall back upon is the Census of 1931, where the relative numerical strength of each is available. Accordingly, the numerically important Hindu castes were Brahman 15,172, Chamar 9,496, Halba 55,338, Kalar 15,466, Kewat 35,285, Koshti 14,207, Kurmi 40,584, Lodhi 13,132, Teli 1,55,519, Satnami 103,828. Panka 12,453, Mehra 20,167, Mali 28,638, Lohar 10,034, Rajput 7,849, Nai 8,867

and Kawar 6,133. As said earlier, 15 castes (with the synonymous groups) have been Scheduled in the District and 32 tribes (with their sub-tribes and synonymous groups) have been Scheduled in Durg and Sanjari Balod tahsils only under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order, 1956.

The following Table indicates the regional distribution of these castes and tribes according to the Census of 1961.

Tahsil (Rural)	Scheduled Castes			Percentage to Total Population	Scheduled Tribes			Percentage to Total Population
	Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female	
Kawardha	17,152	8,551	8,601	8.3	...	..	..	..
Khairagarh	21,090	11,138	9,952	10 3	..	..	..	..
Bemetara	54,560	26,362	28,198	26.3	..	..	..	..
Rajnandgaon	20 761	9,948	10,813	10.1	..	.	..	..
Durg	58,775	28,770	30,005	28.4	32,425	15,619	16,806	15.5
Sanjari Balod	18,240	8,840	9,400	8.8	169,398	83,409	85,989	81,2
Total Rural	190,578	93,609	96.969	92.1	201,823	99 028	102,795	96.7
Urban	16,294	8,897	7,397	7,9	6,954	3,606	3,348	3.3
District Total	206,872	102,505	104,366	100 0	208,777	103,634	106,143	100.0

Among the Scheduled Castes, the numerically important castes are Chamar (including Satnami and Surjyabanshi, etc.) 172,728, Mehra 17,343 and Ganda 8,680. Others were Basor 1,679, Katia 276, Khatik 145, Kori 130, Mang 73, Mehtar 1,797 Sansi one and unclassifiable 1.163. Among the Scheduled Tribes, Gonds with their synonymous groups were numerically significant and numbered 119,933, followed by Halbas 79,120 and Kawars 7,532. Others were Baigas and Bhainas 2 each, Bhils 27, Bhunjias 25, Dhuwars 5, Kumar Munda one each, Kols 21. Oraons 127, Pradhans 271, Pardhis including Bahelias, etc. 759, Parjas 3, Sawars 33 and unclassifiable 1,015 according to Census 1961.

Chamar (Including Satnami)

One of the early references to the Chamars relates to 1866, wherein the workers in skins were noted as Chamars. It was also stated that "they have raised themselves in social scale in Chhutteesgurh by adopting the Sutnamee tenet; they are gradually getting rid of the name Chumar; and their descendants will probably set up as distinct caste."[1] Hewitt and Chisholm, who conducted the Settlement operations in Raipur and Bilaspur Districts, respectively, also made relavent references to the Satnamis.

1. Report of the Ethnological Committee, 1866-67, pp. 102-03.

Writing about them, Sherring observed that the religion was "founded by Ghasidas, a Chamar between the years 1820 and 1830. Idolatory of every form is eschewed and the Supreme Being is worshipped without any visible sign of representation. They have no temples, no public religious service, no creed, no form of devotion. A Satnami prostrates himself before the Sun, morning and evening, crying, *Sat Nam*, the Tune Name, or the True One."[1]

The movement during the early decades of the present Century, was regarded as "an uprising of the downtrodden low-castes against the tyranny of Brahmanism, its leading principles being abjuration of Brahmanistic pantheon of worship of one God, whom they call *Sat Nam*."[2] Later by the 'thirties this concept seems to have taken deep roots in the minds of the then travellers, scholars and the Government. The two sects of considerable importance in the Province were noted to be Satnami and Kabirpanth. It was noted again that "They represent respectively, the revolt of the depressed castes of Gandas, or weavers and Chamars or tanners, against the tyranny of Brahmanism and the Caste system. . . . An interesting sub-sect of Satnamis is Ram-Ramiha. Members of it are found chiefly in Chhattisgarh and they strive at even greater ceremonial purity than the Satnamis proper."[3]

Though a religious sect, the Satnamis were to be classified as a separate caste-group on account of a decision of Local Government in 1926. In Census 1961, they are classified as a synonymous group of Chamars and are listed in the Scheduled Castes. They are the dominant Scheduled Caste and found to be 8.18 per cent of its population against 12.7 per cent in 1931. As said earlier, they attained the status of an independent caste in 1927 or so, and formed an endogamous caste, disclaiming all association with Chamars. In the villages, the Satnamis would be generally found living separately from other communities. They put the sacred-thread like the Brahmans, and refrain from taking non-vegetarian food. Satnamis are mostly met with in Durg, Kawardha, Bemetara and Rajnandgaon tahsils in the District.

"The Chamars in Chhattisgarh are generally of fine staure and fair complexion. It is on record that a European officer mistook a Chamar for a Eurasian and addressed him in English."[4] It is further observed that the Satnami women are more beautiful than the average women-folk of Chhattisgarh.

The social customs of Satnamis resemble generally those of other Chamars. They will admit into the community all except members of the impure castes. Their weddings are generally arranged in specified period of the year, before the attainment of 15 years of age. *Gauna* or *gawan* is performed after the bride attains the age of puberty. They commonly bury the dead, laying the body with face downwards. They observe mourning for three days and have their heads shaved.

1. M. A. Sherring, Hindu Tribes and Castes, Vol, II. p. 110.
2. J. Forsyth, The Highlands of Central India, p. 338.
3. Census of India, 1931, C. P. & Berar, pt. I, p. 327.
4. R. V. Russell and Hiralal, The Tribes and Castes of the Central Provinces, Vol. II, p. 404.

Their women wear nose-rings, simply to show their contempt for Hindu social order.[1]

Mehra

Mahars or Mehras a caste of menials, labourers, and village watchmen of the Maratha community are regarded as corresponding to the Chamars and Koris of northern India. In 1931, they numbered 20,167, professing Hindu faith. They have been listed as Scheduled Caste, numbering 17,343, all professing Hindu faith. They were mostly in rural parts of Rajnandgaon (3,515), Khairagarh (3,601), Sanjari Balod (3,288) and Durg (2.158) and were generally found to be engaged as cultivators or as agricultural labourers, as weaving, a traditional occupation among them, is decaying for want of raw material. In 1961, only 521 Mahars were engaged in household industry.

The caste has a number of sub-divisions, generally of local or territorial type They have also a large number of exogamous groups, the names of which are derived from plants, animals, and natural objects. Intra-sept marriages are avoided. The custom of *lamjhana* or serving for a wife is recognised. Generally, the *Mohturia* or caste-priest officiates at weddings. Widow marriage is allowed, and also divorce, which should be effected before the Caste Panchayat or Committee. The dead is either burnt or buried and the mourning is observed for three days.

Generally, they worship village deities, Devi, Hanuman, Dulha Deo, and others, and observe, principally, Holi and Dussehra festivals.

Ganda

The third numerically important Scheduled Caste in the District is of Gandas, who numbered 8,680 in 1961. Their population was 6,613 in 1931. The servile caste of village drudges, acting as watchmen, weavers of cloth, and musicians were found to be cultivators and agricultural labourers in large number in 1961. Transport, storage, communications and construction were other sectors in which they were engaged. Concentrating in Sanjari Balod Tahsil (Rural 3,822), other tahsils shared them almost evenly.

With slight feminine preponderance the Gandas are divided in exogamous groups or sects and are named after plants animals or other inanimate objects. Marriage is traditionally prohibited within the sept *Sethia*, an elderly male member of the caste usually conducts the ceremony, and the couple go round the sacredpole five times in the morning and three in the evening. The remarriage of widows is permitted. They principally worship Dulha Deo and observe the Hindu fasts and festivals. At Dussehra, they traditionally worship their musical instruments and weavers' looms. The dead are buried generally.[2]

1. R. V. Russell and Hiralal, op. cit., p. 314.
2. Ibid, Vol. III, p. 14.

Other castes in the District are the Teli, Rawat, Panka, Lodhi, Kurmi, etc. The Telis, or the oil-presser caste, are found mainly in Rajnandgaon Tahsil and have two sub-divisions, the Jheria and the Halia or also as Ekbaili and Dobaili. The former yoke one bullock to their *ghani* while the latter yoke two. Many of the Telis have now abandoned their traditional occupation and taken to cultivation."[1] The Rawats are village-graziers, herds-men, milk-men, and household servants. Rawat-nach during the Diwali festival engages them most. They go out dancing in parties from house to house, singing *dohas* and *dadariyas*. Panka, like Gandas, are employed as village watchmen, and are the followers of Kabirpanth faith. Their headquarters were at Kawardha, which is still an important place for Kabirpanthis. Probably the 'Kawardha' has originated from the word Kabirdham, meaning place or residence of Kabir.[2] Perhaps Lodhis are immigrants from Balaghat and according to a legend their first ancestor was created by Mahadeo. They claim to be Rajput. Kurmis are adept cultivators, and held substantial holidings. Prior to 1951, most of the Kurmis were village proprietors.

The Brahmans in the District, barring those in urban areas who immigrated from Uttar Pradesh, in recent times, belong to Chhattisgarhi endogamous caste. They are said to have come to these parts from the north with Kalyan Shah, a Haihayvanshi chief (1536-1573 A. D.).[3]

Russell and Hiralal, remarked that Chhattisgarhi Brahmans form a separate group who have long been separated from their brethren elsewhere. Chhattisgarhi Brahmans do not generally marry outside their own stock. They adopted the Chhattisgarhi dialect, and a perceptible change has also come in their dress, specially of women. They keep a *kosasari* at home which is supposed to be pure, and is worn during meals and at *puja* ceremonies.[4] The orthodox among their women-folk also do not usually wear a blouse or *choli*, and the *sari* is worn slightly high.[5]

Gonds

The scheduling in respect of tribes only extends over to Durg and Sanjari Balod Tahsils according to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order, 1956. Gonds are numerically the most important tribe constituting 57.5 per cent of the total Scheduled Tribe population in 1961.[6] Sanjari Balod Tahsil

1. Durg District Census Hand Book, 1961. p. X.
2. Ibid., p. xvii.
3. Bilaspur District Gazetteer, p. 83.
4. Census of India, 1961, Rendri: A Village Survey, p. 20.
5. Ibid., p. 13.
6. The Gonds include the following sub-tribes:—Arakh or Arrakh. Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria or Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta or Koilabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhura or Dhurwa, Dhoba, Bhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta or Gatti, Gaita, Gond, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga. Khatola, Kuchaki Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia (Maria), Mana, Mannewar, Moghya or Mogia, or Monghya, Mudia (Marja), Nagarchi, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj, Sonjhari, Jhareka, Thatia, Thotya, Wade Maria or Vade Maria.

is a Gond predominated one, where 90,012 persons were enumerated in rural areas. Only 3,290 Gonds were found to be living in urban areas of these two tahsils. In the rural area, Gonds were mostly found engaged as cultivators and agricultural labourers. Settlement Report recorded a tribute to the Gond's skill and remarked. "In the jungles, curiously enough, the Gonds are intelligent cultivators and very hard-working. They take great care of their fields, turn nullahs into jhils with large masonry sluice."[1] A curious fact noted in 1909 about the Gond cultivation was: "The peculiarity about the Gonds of Nandgaon is that they employ cows and she-buffaloes as their plough-cattle."[2]

Among the urban section of the Gond population, mining and quarrying, attracted them more where alone 780 persons were engaged. They are also chiefly found in Khairagarh, Kawardha and other tahsils, though scheduling does not extend to these areas.

The Gonds of Durg have three endogamous groups, the Raj-Gonds, the Dhur Gonds and the Kurtaya Gonds. The last named Gonds were found in Khairagarh where they were reported to have given up eating fowls. But in the 'thirties, Kurtaya Gonds were not noted; instead a sub-tribe Gaitiya Gond was noted in Khairagarh State.[3]

In the Gond hierarchy, Raj-Gonds regard themselves as superior and are also called Gond Thakur or Thakur. Earlier it was recorded that they alone cremate their dead while others bury.[4] But by the 'thirties of the present Century, in Khairagarh State, it was recorded that generally the dead among the Gonds are "burned, if they have been married, but virgins of both sexes are buried, head to the south and feet to north, A mound of earth is made where the body was cremated, but there is no such mound over a person who has been buried. After the funeral, a goat is sacrificed by the *samdhi* (connection by marriage) of the deceased, and thereby the spirit of the dead man is held to be amalgamated with that of Burra Deo."[5] Now under the Hindu influence, cremation of the dead has become a common custom among them.[6]

Gonds all over Chhattisgarh claim to have migrated from Dhamda in Durg, which is thus more a legendary home than the actual."[7] Southern most parts of Panabaras and Korancha, where the Gond population abounds are largely backward tracts. It is recorded that the Gond-stock here do not properly belong to Chhattisgarh, but rather resemble Bastar, and here the Maria Gonds, the wildest section of the tribe, are met with.[8]

1. Quoted in Durg District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. X.
2. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 91.
3. Census of India, 1931, C. P. & Berar, Pt. I, p. 406.
4. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 91.
5. Census of India, 1931, C. P. & Berar, pt. I. p. 406.
6. The Tribes of Madhya Pradesh, 1964, p, 34.
7. Durg District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. X.
8. Durg District Gazetteer, p. 57.

The Raj-Gonds and Dhur Gonds have become Hinduized, and do not eat the flesh of cow. They, however, eat all other kinds of meat, including that of bison if they can get it. Burra Deo is the special god of the Gonds. They also worship Devi and Dulha Deo. Bhagwan (Mahadeo) is to them a great God to whom offerings of *malida* (wheat-cakes reduced to powder, and mixed with molasses and ghee) are also made. The traces of animism in the religion were observed among the Dhur Gonds, but not among the Raj Gonds. Dulha Deo is worshipped in Chaitra and after weddings. The Gonds are agnostic regarding the after life. They do not wear the sacred thread.[1]

The Gonds are found to be divided into *bargas* or *got*.[2] Primarily, their division into clans is according to the number of gods worshipped, varying from one to seven. Persons worshipping the same number of gods are related as brothers, and may not inter-marry. Cross-cousin marriage is the preferential form of marriage. Payment of bride-price is the rule. Many a times the endogamous sections of Gonds have common *Pargahanias* (Pardhan minstrels), who is supposed to be conversant with all the details about the origin of Gonds, their gods and their divisions.

Polygamy is permitted among them. Also permitted are junior levirate (widow marrying the younger brother of the deceased husband), divorce and widow marriage. Besides the regular marriage, marriage by service, marriage by mutual consent, marriage by capture and marriage by intrusion are also practised. The regular marriage is usually performed by the Baiga. The bride and bridegroom go seven times round the sacred object, which in the case of Gonds of Khairagarh is stated to be water.[3]

Halbas

Constituting the second largest Scheduled Tribe in the District, the Halbas numbered 79,120 in 1961. The females (40,749) showed a slight edge over the males (38,371) in two tahsils to which scheduling was restricted in the District. Sanjari Balod (rural) returned 73,108 Halbas in Census 1961. Durg Tahsil (rural) had only a sprinkling of these, where 3,499 Halbas were enumerated. Educationally, only 10,848 persons in rural and 230 in urban areas were found to be literate in Census 1961. Their main occupation is agriculture, though in urban areas, mining and quarrying etc., attracted them most. They are comparatively more advanced than many other tribes. They all profess Hinduism, though in earlier records the Halbas of Chhattisgarh in large proportion were classified under Kabirpanthi sect and were known as Kabirhas.[4]

1. Census of India, 1931, C. P. & Berar, Pt. I, p. 406.
2. The following *gotras* in the tract around Lachhna in Khairagarh State were noted in Census 1931. Chegarya, Tekam, Maday, Kunjawan, Pusam, Masram, Nakmutta, Balaiyi, Markam, Korappa, Kusram.
3. Census of India, 1931, C. P. & Berar, Pt. I, p. 406.
4. R. V. Russell, op. cit., Vol. III, p. 194.

The Halbas of Bastar received more attention than those elsewhere chiefly, it seems, because their language assumed the status of the Palace language. They also held a position of some importance there, as the hereditary *palki* bearers of the ruler, and enjoyed the privilege of carrying daggers. Their concentration in Sanjari Balod Tahsil, presumably accounts for the amount of Marathi spoken in the area. It is surmised that the dispersion of Halbas over the south of the Province was perhaps due to their ancestors accompanying invading armies either as camp-followers or as soldiers rather than to other causes.[1]

The tribe has some local sub-divisions such as Bastarha, Chhattisgarhia, and Marethia. Everywhere, two groups of pure and mixed Halbas are to be found. In Chhattisgarh area these are known as Surait and Nayak, and do not inter-marry with purait or Nekha group of Bastar. The exogamous septs of the Halbas bear caste names like Rawat (herdsman), Barhai (carpenter) and Barethe (washerman); they also have territorial and titular names.

Marriage among the Halbas is generally arranged by the parents, and is usually in adult age. Mother's brother's daughter is preferred for the marriage. Small and "large" are two types of weddings among them. The former is held at bride-groom's house with short and curtailed ceremonies, while the latter is held at bride's house with elaborate rituals, and is costlier. Divorce and widow marriage are practised freely. The dress of Halbas is rather scanty. They have only a short cloth about the loins, and another round the shoulders. They dispense with both the shoes and the head-cloth. But every man must have a thread tied round his waist. In this respect these can be distinguished from Gonds who are more advanced in matters of dress.

Kawars

The next numerically important Scheduled Tribe in the District is of Kawars, who numbered 7,432 in 1961.[2] Mostly they inhabited the rural areas. Sanjari Balod Tahsil (rural) accounted for 78.4 per cent of their population in the District. Akin to Gonds and Halbas, faminine excess is recorded among them also. Majority of them are cultivators or agricultural labourers, while mining and quarrying also attracted them. Educationally they are also a backward tribe, and only 1,243 persons were found to be literate, almost all below primary level.

The Kawars trace their origin from 'Kauravas' of the *Mahabharat*, and hence they consider military service as their traditional occupation, though largely they were enumerated as cultivators now. Divided into eight endogamous divisions, the tribe has a large number of exogamous septs, which are generally totemic. Marriage between the same sept is prohibited, so also between the children of brothers and sisters. Adult marriage is the rule and bride-price which

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1 Census of India, 1931, C. P. & Berar, Pt. I, p. 365.

2. The Kawars include the Kanwar, Kaur, Charwa Rathia, Tanwar or Chattri.

is locally known as *suk*, is prevalent. Widow marriage is permitted, except in Tanwar sept. Exchange of girls between two families is permissible in lieu of the payment of bride-price. This practice is known as *gumrawat*. The practice of serving for a wife is also prevalent among them, and is known as *gharjian*. Polygamy is permitted, though not common.

The dead are usually buried among them, though well to do families have adopted cremation. Kawar's dress presents no special features, but Kawar women can be distinguished atonce from a Gond woman by her tatto marks. Kawar women are tattooed on the breast with a figure of Krishna, on the arms with that of a deer and on the legs with miscellaneous patterns.[1]

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance

The property in the rural areas consists mainly of land, cattle, ornaments and utensils. The control of the head over the family property, his behaviour towards the dependents and *vice-versa*, are evidences of the existence of patriarchal system of family in the District.

The inheritance runs through the male line, all sons being entitled to get more or less equal shares from the property of the father. The women are very fond of ornaments, as elsewhere. The ownership of the ornaments, presented by her parents at the time of marriage, rests with her. She has a right to take them in the event of desertion. The man cannot rightfully claim those ornaments.[2] In the event of death of the man, unless wished by him to give a separate share of land to the widow, the entire property is shared by the sons, usually equally. An additional share to any of them, usually the eldest, is not the rule but it is practised. Locally it is known as *jethasi*.

If a man has no issue, the wife gets the property after his death. If the wife has predeceased, then the property goes to his brother. The daughters have no right in the father's property, as also the sons-in-law. Normally, no distinction is made between the issues of a regular marriage and those from a *choori*-marriage.

It appears that legislations enacted from time to time for the recognition of women's right to property did not affect the traditional code of inheritance followed by the ruralities. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 is the latest in the series. The Act, governs the succession among the Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains. The property of the Hindus dying intestate devolves on his sons, daughters, widow and mother.

The Muslim are, however, governed by the Islamic Law in the matter, and the mother, wife and daughters are also co-sharers in the inherited property.

1. The Tribes of Madhya Pradesh, 1964, p. 40.
2. Bendri: A Village Survey, p. 27.

If the deceased had not paid the *mehr* (alimony), and had divorced the wife, the first claim in his property rests with the wife.

By and large the joint-family system continues to persist, though signs of its disintegration are not lacking. Probably it is in the transitional stage towards the nuclear-family. The transition appears to be the result of developmental activities, particularly in the field of education and communication. The family in this region is patrilineal and patrilocal, and respresents unilateral social group, consisting of parents and their married sons and/or unmarried sons and daughters. Small joint-family, thus, is the most typical form, containing members in vertical extension. If a household is taken up as a family, then according to Census 1961, the sample study of family composition in the District will be of interest here. An analysis of family composition of 1,000 sample houscholds, covering 4,527 household population, reveals that of these, the heads of the households constitute 1,000; spouses of the heads of the households 736; married relations 922; never married, widowed, divorced or separated relations 1,819 and 50 unrelated persons. This shows that 62.7 per cent of the members in an average family in the District are either married relations or widowed or divorced persons. On an average the number of persons per occupied house was found to be 4.79 in the District as compared with 5.20 for the State as a whole.

Marriage and Morals

Monogamy is the rule, but deviations from it cannot be ruled out. Such deviations arise, apart from other factors, from the point of view of begetting children or a male heir, or for insanity, etc. The man with the sanction of his relatives can marry a second woman, The polygamy, however, finds traditional sanction and among the substantial persons belonging to tribal-stock or amongst the labour-class, the spouse is given an economic value. An addition in the family also augments the family income, as wife's labour is considered as cheap and efficient.

Muslim are permitted to take as many as four wives, but in practice its incidence is small. Christians are forbidden to take a second wife.

Polyandrous customs or habits are absent among the people in the District. In general, the marital relations are sought within the bonds of the caste, with rare exception. Such relations could not be termed as polyandrous but are extra-marital relations.

The traditional caste-restrictions on the marriage are adhered to even today. The Chhattisgarhi Brahmans do not generally marry among other Brahmans like Kanyakubja, Jijhotia and Saryupari. However, they practice, as other sections of Brahmans, the *gotra* exogamy. Although it is a general rule, the feasibility of strict observance of this rule seems doubtful, particularly in castes and tribes at the lower-strata of the social hierarchy, where love marriage and widow marriage are practised. In case of marriage outside the pale of the caste they are made an

out-caste, and their parents or relatives have to give a feast to the caste members. The Gonds have exogamous totemic septs, and a man must not marry within his own sept nor should he marry in a sept which worships the same number of gods. "The Halbas avoid marriage between persons having the same *thok* or surname, as well as between those of the same *barag*. Apart from sept-exogamy, marriage between the children of brothers and sisters is also probibited among the Kawars.

Marriage

Marriages are usually arranged by elders in the family. The Chhattisgarhi Brahman families who live in this tract, attach importance to strict ceremonial observance in matter of food, customs, rituals, etc. They, therefore, generally marry among themselves, but practise *gotra*-exogamy. The settlement of marriage is confirmed when the bride's brother performs the *lagan* or *tika* ceremony at the boy's house. The marriage date is settled, and some money is presented to the boy's father.

On the appointed day, the marriage is performed at the bride's place. *Tel-chadhana* ceremony, and dressing of the bridegroom in marriage robes are important ceremonies performed at the bridegroom's house. The marriage dress consists usually of *kurta*, yellow *dhoti* and *jama*, the wedding gown, While turban is worn over the *mour*, marriage crown, made of *chhind* leaves (*phoenix-acaulis*) or bamboo sticks and paper. The bride-groom also keeps a small dagger with him. The marriage party, consisting of friends and relations reaches well in time at bride's place, and is lodged at a suitable place. Formal reception to the party is given at the bride's house, generally, in the evening. The bride-groom and the bride are seated near the *vedi*, sacred fire. The priest after due recitation of sacred verses, ties the ends of the bride's sari and the bride-groom's upper-cloth together, and then the couple performs the *hawan* ceremony. The pair take seven rounds of the sacred-fire, the ceremony being known as *bhanwar*. Oaths are also administered to the couple for ideal marital behaviour. The presents are exchanged On the next day after the feast, the party departs alongwith the bride, which is known as *bida*.

The regular marriage among Rawats is known *bihaw*. *Bade-bihaw* is performed at girl's house and *chhote-bihaw* or *thecka-bihaw* at the boy's house. The boy's guardians bring *lagan* and present marriage-clothes to the girl, and marriage date is settled.

Others forms of marriage among them are *barandi paithoo*, *choori*, elopement and abduction. *Barandi* marriage is with a very young widow, and is performed in a simple manner. *Paithoo* is marriage by intrusion. The woman in this form of marriage simply walks into her spouse's house, and declares him as her husband. The society approves of it by saying *paithoo baith-ge-he*. *Choori* marriage is performed with the consent of caste-panchayat to keep a woman as

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The Halbas also follow two types of marriage similar to Rawats and others, which are known as 'small' and 'large'. The former is held at bridegroom's house with curtailed ceremonies, while the latter is solemnized at bride's house, and is costlier than the former. *Dulhi-kuria* is the bride's apartment where the bride's party is lodged by the bridegroom's father, where he washes the big-toes of the bride.[1] For the marriage ceremony proper, the bride and bridegroom are made to stand facing each other in the marriage-hut, with a sheet held between them. The caste-priest, *joshi*, takes two lamps and mingles their flames. The cloth between them is pulled down, and the clothes of the couple are tied together. The couple go round the marriage-post seven times.

A Kawar marriage is initiated by the boy's parents. Bride-price is prevalent, and is known as *suk*. The wedding follows the ordinary Hindu rituals. The marriage is performed by walking round the sacred-pole six times, on one day, and once on the following day.[2] The bride's parents also wash the feet of the couple.

The Kurmi marriage customs resemble those of high-caste Hindus. The marriage-age among them is usually between 12 to 18 years for boys, and 11-13 for the girls. Their important rituals are *god-bharna* or *phaldan* which confirms the betrothal. It is different from that observed by Brahmans, and in it the boy's people go to girl's house to offer her coconut and money. Other marriage rituals are *choolmati*, earth bringing, *tel-chadhana*, oil-anointing, *havan*, invoking ancestral spirits to participate, and *bhanwar*, going round the sacred post seven times.

The dowry system is prevalent in some or the other form in all castes, and amount varies according to the status of the family. Among the Chhattisgarhi Brahmans, it is claimed that the dowry system is not prevalent in the form in which it is practised in Uttar Pradesh, and even in Madhya Pradesh, among the Kanyakubjas. Of course, the bride's father gives whatever he can to the bride-groom's father, but no dowry is fixed as a condition.[3] The custom of paying the bride-price is prevalent amongst the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, where

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1. R. V. Russell and Hiralal, op. cit., Vol. III, p. 191.
2. Ibid, Vol. III, p. 394.
3. Bandri : A Village Survey, p. 36.

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2. Ibid, Vol. III, p. 394.
3. Bandri : A Village Survey, p. 36.

bride is put on a premium. After the marriage negotiations are concluded, the Halba boy's father sends a present of some quantity of grains to the girl's father, which is in the nature of the bride-price. Among the Gonds and Kawars also, this custom is prevalent, and in the case of the latter it is known as *suk*.

Registered Marriage

To grant legal recognition to otherwise valid marriages performed contrary to the traditions and customs of the castes or class, the Special Marriage Act,was first passed in 1872. It was substituted by the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (43 of 1954). In a caste-ridden society, registered marriages are very few on record. From 1965 to 1969, only 30 cases were registered under this Act in Durg.

Marriage-age for boys and girls is generally 15 to 19 years among the Kewat caste. But among the Rawats, the marriage takes place at an early age. In case of early marriage, the *gawan* ceremony is postponed till she attains the age of puberty. Among the Dhur Gonds, generally the marriage takes place in pre-puberty age, while among the Halbas and Kawars it is usually adult.

Divorce and Widow Marriage

Though prohibited among a few castes, viz., Chhattisgarhi Brahmans, Banias, Kayasthas, etc., the separation, divorce, and widow marriage among the tribal-stock and the lower-castes, viz.. Rawat, Teli, Panka, Kewat, Satnami, Mehra, Ganda, etc., are largely prevalent. The incidence of separation by running away are probably highest among the Satnamis in the whole of the Chhattisgarh area.[1] Widow marriages are called *Choori*-marriage, which is resorted to with the sanction of the caste-panchayat. *Barandi* form of marriage is with very young widow. Females' preponderance over males has been a general feature of Chhattisgarh area. But generally, "once married, the males seldom leave the wife, and practically in all cases the separation is effected by the wife. Even when the wife runs away, the husband tries his level best to get her back by persuasion and no stigma is attached even when she has lived with another man. A wife is referred to as *mal* (property), and when a man goes to the person who has got his wife, he would say '*hamar mal la apis kar de*' (return my property). This word *mal* is used in caste-panchayats and in courts too."[2] In the rural areas, the cases of this type are usually not taken to the statutory courts. However, such separations entitle the husband to claim a compensation, known as *bihati*, from the man who keeps his wife. Divorce cases numbering 57 were instituted during 1965 to 1969 in Durg District.

Muslim Marriage

A Muslim marriage called *nikah*, is a simple and short ceremony. The betrothal or *magni* is the settlement of the match, followed by the principal cere-

1. Kosa, A Village Survey, p. 63.
2. Ibid., p. 31.

mony of *nikah*. The *Kazi* obtains the consent of the couple. The consideration for the contract is known as *mehr* (alimony), which is paid by the bridegroom to the wife on demand.

Christian marriage is performed in the Church, in a brief, simple manner. The Jain marriage rites vary in some respect from region to region. The main rites are known as *vagdana*, promise, *kanyadana*, giving of the bride to the bridegroom, *panigrahana* and *saptpadi*.

Economic Dependence of Women

A peculiar feature of the Chhattisgarh area has been a consistently high ratio of females during the period from 1901 to 1951. But during the last decade the position has reversed, mainly due to the establishment of Bhilai Steel Project. It is a socially accepted fact that women in this District, and for that matter, in the whole of the Chhattisgarh, have a comparatively greater degree of freedom than women in many other pasts of the country. Here women associate more with men in the pursuit of economic activities. This can be seen from the figures of cultivators (males 3,30,099 females 349,469) and agricultural labourers (males 100,171 females 105,100). The sex-ratio (females per 1000 males) in different catagories of 'workers' and 'non-workers' in rural and urban areas of the District according to Census 1961. is given in the following Table:—

Category	Sex-Ratio		
	Total	Rural	Urban
Total Population	993	1,041	706
Total Workers	843	955	238
(a) As Cultivators	1,059	1,063	1,048
(b) As Agricultural workers	1,049	1,048	1,216
(c) In Mining and Quarrying, etc.	370	332	490
(d) At Household Industry	616	619	595
(e) In Manufacturing other than Household Industry	83	225	67
(f) In Construction	268	265	270
(g) In Trade and Commerce	278	402	194
(h) In Transport and Storage and Communications	93	148	68
(i) In Other Services	360	371	345
Total Non-Workers	1,249	1,185	16

Women in rural areas are economically more active than their counterparts in the urban areas. As large as 843 females per 1000 males were recorded to be 'workers' in Census 1961. Apart from the category of 'cultivators' and 'agricultural labourers', where they outstripped the male working force, 'household industry' (616), mining, quarrying, etc., (370) and 'trade and commerce' (402) also accounted for large number of female workers. In a way, it may be said that in the rural society, the economic dependence of women is positively co-rrelated

with the status of the castes. Among the higher castes, stigma still appears to be attached to their women's working in the fields. This is perhaps the reason for low proportion of female workers in the urban areas.

Prostitution, Drinking and Gambling

No prostitution or trafficing in women is in vogue in any caste or tribe in the District. Alcoholic drinks, however, is a common malady among the tribals, who are tipplers of the first rank. The habit has permeated into other castes, living in rural areas in proximity of these people. It is a part of their daily routine, and on festive and ceremonial occasions, it is the most common form of entertainment. Liquor also forms the part of the social customs when women and children also share it. This quite often gives rise to illicit distillation in the villages. In order to curb this social evil Prohibition in respect of liquor was imposed in Durg Tahsil of the District from October 1946. From January, 1948, Prohibition in respect of opium *ganja* and *bhang* was also introduced in the same Tahsil. During the period since 1951, the offences registered by the police gradually increased from 14 in 1951 to 159 in 1957 and to 1,215 in 1959. Although there has been no organised temperance movement, but anti-drink committees were usually formed to help eradicating the evil. Celebration of Prohibition Week in the month of October is an annual feature, when concerted propaganda is launched to eradicate the evil. The Bharat Sewak Samaj is executing the 'public co-operative scheme' relating to the educational and promotional work on Prohibition at Bhilai in Durg Tahsil. The Government sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 5000/- for the purpose. A distinct declining trend is noticeable in the offences registered under Prohibition Act, during the recent years. From 1901 cases in 1960, the number of offences declined to 812 involving, 1,003 persons in 1966 and further to 392 in 1967 under the Prohibition Act, which has since been scrapped.

Gambling is an entertainment and a pastime for some people in the area, as elsewhere. It is more common during the period when there is a comparative lull in agricultural activities. It is usually indulged by the people in the form of card-games. Recently, the *satta*-gambling, known as Nagpur *matka*, appears to be on an increase in Rajnandgaon, and even students are also reported to be engaged in it. Gambling at the time of festivals, e.g., Diwali is notorious in police records. The number of offences registered under the Gambling Act, since 1951, increased from 87 to 444 in 1959. After a decline in the following year, the offences again mounted to 582 in 1962. Since then, a noticeable decline has been recorded in the following years, when in 1965, 429 cases were registered.

There has again been a sudden spurt in the offences against the Act during 1967 and 1968, whence their number soared to 1,078 and 3,526 respectively. But during the last two years, the declining trend reasserted and the recorded cases climbed down to 2,892 in 1967 and 1,494 in 1970. It is, however, curious that the number of persons involved increased from 4,782 in 1969 to 4,986 in 1970.

HOME LIFE

Dwelling

The total occupied residential houses in the District in 1961, were 3,93,485, of which 3,31,623 were in rural and 61,862 in urban areas. Durg Tahsil accounted for the largest number of occupied houses, viz., 1,17,216 followed by Bemetara (65,390) and Rajnandgaon (51,089) tahsils, While there were 4.79 persons per occupied house in the District in 1961, the rural average was slightly higher (4.97). In urban areas, however, an average house contained 3.81 persons only. It appears from the above, that pressure on housing in the District is generally low, in comparison with the districts of the north-eastern part of the State, where it is highest. But, in view of the fact that the term 'Census-House' can cover a wide variety of structures, with only this common feature that each of them has a separate entrance, it will not be right to hazard the conclusion that all is well with housing in this part of the State. Durg is one of the districts, falling in the highest (rural) density range (209-345). Thus this syndrome of high density and relatively low pressure on housing can be explained only in terms of a generally poor population living in sub-standard housing, even though the houses may all be independent structures like huts, for example.

According to a sample study of the households in 1961, about 41 per cent of the households lived in one-room structures, 33 per cent in two-room structures, and about 15 per cent in three-room structures. Only 6 per cent of the households, however, lived in four-room houses, and the rest 5 per cent in five-or-more room structures.

The majority of the households lived in houses with mud-walls (78 per cent), roofed with tiles, slate or shingle. Only seven per cent of the households lived in houses, with walls constructed in burnt-bricks, and an equal number in the houses with walls made of grass-leaves, reeds or bamboos. Only 0.93 per cent of the households lived in the houses with walls made of cement concrete, which were largely found in urban area, more particularly in Bhilainagar Industrial township. Concrete or stone-slate-roof houses accounted for only 2.37 per cent of the sample households, a large number of them were found to be in the Bhilainagar township.

The houses continue to consist of enclosure, containing a number of huts for the separate use of married sons, and sometimes for farm-servants and other dependents also. The home-stead has an open courtyard, *angan*, which in single-hut domicile remains in the front. As the number of huts increases, the courtyard is bounded by them. Sometimes. the boundary walls of mud of thorny shrubs is also erected round the cluster of huts. The threshing floor is generally kept outside the home-stead land. The verandah, *parchi* is used for sitting and keeping quern, etc.

Generally, the rural houses are devoid of any special device for ventilation, and gaps between the structure of roof, and the walls serve the purpose. The

room, close to the main gate, is known as *derauthi*, and is used as a guest-room. *Bari* is a small garden, which also has the sweeping pit, *ghura*, Generally, the rural houses have no place for lavatory, and open land near the tank is utilized for the purpose.

The roof-structure is raised on the wooden cross-poles over which the bamboo-stilts are spread. The structure of the roof is covered by tiles, etc. Generally, two types of roofs are found, i. e., *dandariya*-type and *chaukhadi*-type.[1] The former type of roofs slope on two sides, and the latter on four sides. Four-slopped, tiled-roof houses are commonly found in the area.

The construction of a house precedes a few religious rites, performed by the priest or the owner, on an auspicious day. God Ganesh is worshipped, and a coconut is offered to the deity. While entering a new house, the *Satyanarayan-ki-Katha* is usually performed. Generally, the houses are built with the own labour. But sometime hired labour is also engaged for the construction of the house. The higher castes, however, do not physically participate in the construction of their own houses.

The urban houses mainly are a mixture of clay-walled and brick-walled houses with tiled roofs. Spacious multi-storied concrete buildings, built on modern designs, are also coming up fast in the wake of industrialisation of the area.

Furniture and Decoration

In general, the houses in Chhattisgarhi villages are kept very clean and attractive from the outside. The tribal villages are still cleaner than the rural villages. The houses are generally cleaned by sweeping *mor* (*jharu*), twice or thrice daily. The kitchen, court-yard, living rooms, etc., are rinsed with cowdung paste, and on special occasion, floors, walls, court-yard, etc., are also white-washed. The refuse and cow-dung commonly dumped into a pit, and is allowed to decompose for several months. This serves as manure, *khatu*, in the fields. Many houses have geometrical designs painted on the out-wall of the house. Sometimes the interior of the house also has stylish figures made in mud frescoes, representing birds, animals, and men.

An average household in the rural area is still devoid of furniture or articles of luxury. Chairs are not used, generally, and instead finely strung cot serve the purpose. Visitors are offered cot to sit upon. *Pidha* is used for sitting. The ex-proprietors do possess, however, a few folding and crude types of chairs. Other possessions are usually *gorsi*, an earthen receptacle for keeping cow-dung fire, *chatai*, the mats woven from a variety of legume and used for sitting, etc., *machia* or *pidha*, a small four-legged stool with seat woven with jute-rope.

In the areas influenced by urban characteristics, the households show a tendency for better living. A few cots, chairs, and tables adorn these houses. The

1. Kosa, A Village Survey, p. 23.

sophisticated class in the industrial colony of Bhilainagar live in well-furnished houses. People in general decorate their houses when there is a festival like Diwali, Dussehra, etc. Those who can afford decorate their drawing-rooms with artistic pieces in urban areas.

Utensils

Generally, the utensils used for cooking are earthen in rural households, and it is asserted that the food cooked or milk boiled in these tastes better than in metal vessel. The characteristic vessels of Chhattisgarh are *batki*, a deep pan-like vessel of bronze metal, used for eating *basi* and *maliya*, which is of the same shape but is smaller in size, and is used for keeping pulse or vegetables. Other utensils found in the area are locally known as *kalounji* a frying pan; *handi*, a small pitcher; *houli*, an earthen pan; *kundera* and *parai* are earthen lids; *dar-randhni*, an earthen pitcher; *thari* a dish; *parra*, a bamboo pan; *dua* a wooden ladle. Pitchers are called *marki*, *marka*, *hauli*, *haula*. The latter two are of brass.[1]

Dress

The old Chhattisgarhi proverb that "what a washerman will do in a village where the people live naked" is no longer true, as far as the latter portion of it is concerned. People deck themselves now with bigger sized clothes. *Langoti*, a narrow cloth round the loins, which used to be the only garment worn by the men in village, appears to have been replaced by *anguchhi*, *patuka* or *pancha*. These are small-sized *dhotis*. The one end of *anguchhi*, which comes from the left-side, is tucked at the back in the pleated style. In front, it either dangles, or the lower end of the frontal pleats are again tucked at the navel, or at the back. It hardly reaches up to knees. *Anguchhi* has generally no coloured border. Kurmi men, however, wear *dhoti*, usually with an under-wear. The traditional weaver caste of *Koshtas*, who used to provide the bulk of the handloom-cloth requirement of the people in the region, have received a setback owing to the inroads made by mill-made cloth. Readymade garments are, generally, purchased by the people from urban markets, or weekly *hats*. Other commonly used garments among the males are *fatua*, which is a half-sleeved or sleeveless, collarless light garment, worn on the upper parts of the body. The open fronts are enjoined with buttons. The head-gear and under-garments are, generally, not worn. *Anguchhi*, when twisted round the head is known as *paga*. The Pankas wear the blue cap of uniform, given to them by the Government. *Paga* of yellow colour is the traditional head-gear for Rawats, who put it on during festive occasions.[2] Shirts, *kurta* and *dhoti* are worn by the males of middle and high caste people. Educated class generally wear trousers, coats, shirts, bush-shirts, etc. On ceremonial occasions, fine textured clothings are worn, while some also put on head-gear. Coloured turbans in the urban areas distinguish Sikh immigrants in the area.

The ordinary female attire comprises coloured *lugra*, an unsewn, handloom *dhoti* of about 5½ meters in length, which is worn in the form of a sari. Now

1. Bandri, A Village Survey, p. 27.
2. Ibid, p. 29.

instead of handloom-sari, mill-made saris are being increasingly worn. One end of the *lugra* is thrown over the right shoulder. A part of *lugra* is pleated and tucked at the navel, which hardly covers knees. This is worn either with or without a *kachha*. Formerly, the use of *choli* and *polka* was not customary, but now it is increasingly being used while going out. Among the higher castes, the use of the same and of petticoat is extensive. The upper-caste females, usually keep a *kosa*-sari at home, which is supposed to be pure, and is worn while cooking food, and at *puja* ceremonies. Widows traditionally wear white saris among the upper-castes. The influence of *punjabi shalwar* and *kamiz* seems extensive among the young school going girls in urban areas. An *orhni* is also worn over it, which covers the upper-part of the body.

Foot-Wear

Commonly worn male foot-wear in rural areas is known as *bhadai* and *panhi*. The former is a type of sandal, while the latter is a shoe without laces. Common foot-wear for females is locally known as *aktaria*, which is a flate-sole sandal, and is worn by the females while working outside. All types of foot-wear, both of men and women, are made by the Chamars from raw-hides, after seasoning by indigenous process. In urban areas, the sophisticated class wear factóry-made shoes and *chappals*.

Ornaments

The women do not usually wear ornaments on the head. The ears are bored at the top and through the lobe. The helix region is adorned with *utama*, gold-rings by the rich class, while *khinwa*, *bali*, *karnaful*, *tarki* adorns the lobe. Other ornaments are known as *phulli* and *nath* in the nose; *suta*, and *hamel*, necklace, round the neck; *churia*, *pata*, *harraiya* (below the *churi*), *kara* round the wrist; *nagmori*, *pahuchi*, *bahunta* in arms; *chura*, *paijan*, *toda* in the feet. *Mundri*, finger-ring of silver and *kardhan*, a silver chain round the waist are other ornaments worn by the local populace. *Chutki* and *bichhiya* are the ornaments worn on the toes. The ornaments of widows are *sutia* in the neck, *khinwa* in the ears, and *kara* and *harraiya* round the arms. Most of the commonly used ornaments are of silver, and are prepared by the Sunars (goldsmiths.) The glass-bangles (*churi*) are purchased in the *hats*.

The males wear *bari* in the helix region, *kada* in the wrist and *mundari* in the finger. The ex-proprietor class wear *fulli*, a gold ear-ring in the lobes, and sometime *kardhan*, a silver chain round the waist. The Satnamis and Pankas wear *kanthi-mala*, a wooden beads necklace. Silver *tabij*, amulets, are also worn in the neck.

Tattooing

A common feature among the females is tattooing. It is done by the professional tattooer's caste of Dewar, who visit the villages in winter. The designs for married and unmarried girls are different. The unmarried girls are tattooed

with *purouni, mutki* and *bhursi* designs, which are in the shape of dots. A married female may also get these marks on shoulders, on the arms, on the wrists, and on the legs. The explanation advanced for tattooing is that it is the ornamentation of the female body, which goes with them to the grave

Food

As elsewhere in the rice growing tract of Chhattisgarh, rice is the staple-food of the people in the District. *Koda-kutki* is also largely consumed alongwith rice. Generally, three major meals a day are taken by the people, consisting of rice, *kodo* or *kutki*, pulse-soup and vegetable curry. The left-over of the previous night submerged in water is called *basi*, which normally forms the morning meal before going to field. It is believed that *basi* is a very refreshing diet which keeps the system cool.[1] Morning tea has yet to gain popularity among the rural masses. Another preparation of rice is *pej*, which is taken with vegetables or pulse. It is also given to the convalescing people.[2] Those who can afford it take breakfast in the morning and two major meals a day. In the night they take cooked rice *bhat*.

The commonly used pulses are arhar and urd. The vegetable curry is prepared of *tuma, bhata, patal, kuhureeh, kanda, rakhia*, etc. These are grown by the people in the *bari* attached to the house, and are not purchased from the market. The use of vegetables is considered to be an item of delicacy and luxury.[3] A characteristic vegetable of Chhattisgarh is *kheda*. It is a yellowish leafy plant, purchased from the market. The stems and the leaves of this plant are eaten as vegetable A common aphorism about it is *Mathura ka peda au Chhattisgarh ke Kheda* is prevalent in this region. On ceremonial occasions also, meals are taken three times a day. But the items increase according to the economic status of the persons. The preparations at festival occasions are *sunhari*, cake of flour, fried in groundnut oil or *til* oil; *bara*, pasted *urd*-flour cake fried in oil; *laddoo*, sweet-balls; *thethri, khurmi, phenee, khir, dahrouri, arsa, tasmai, kusli, khaja, padiya*, etc.

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Most common medium of cooking is sesamum oil, though linseed oil and mustard oil is also utilized by some people in the District. Ghee is generally used

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1. Bandri, A Village Survey, p. 54.
2. Ibid.
3. Kosa, A Village Survey, p. 37.

on special occasions. Milk and milk-products do not form routine items of the day. Children are provided with milk by those who own cattle.

Amusements and Festivals

Though the District has not escaped the effects of urbanisation, yet the indigenous modes of recreation, mainly the dances and songs, still absorbs the rural masses. "A tribe which dances, lives", said Jawahar- lal Nehru. And in remote parts, dances and songs still form the only source of amusement and recreation among the rural masses of the District. Gossips and story-telling, are other modes of spending time. They assemble in front of *jaitkham*, and talk about the village problems, etc. The *dohas* and *dadarias* are fast losing ground to film-songs. *Saneema*, movie-picture, attracts them to the towns sometime. The programmes arranged by the cultural forums are few and far between, but are enjoyed thoroughly. Unlike tribal villages of Bastar, where the people have an organised system of recreation in the nature of a variety of dances, rural and pastoral villages in Chhattisgarh have almost nothing worth the name. Rawat-predominated villages are, however, more colourful in this respect, particularly before Diwali.

Festival, however, is the time when the rural life pulsates with new zest and zeal, shedding its drab monotomy. Apart from the festivals of national importance, viz., Holi, Diwali, Dussehra, Independence Day, etc., the festivals of local importance Jawara, Hareli, Pola, Tija, Kamarchhat, Punni Madai, Janam-astmi, Peeter–Pakh, Nawakhai, Jethouni, Goura-Gouri, Sankrant, Chharchhera, Shivratri, etc., are celebrated by the local people with child-like faith.

Jawara are sown twice, at the time of Ramnavami and at Naodurga. Poor people sow the *jawara* on the former occasion, while the rich people at the time of Naodurga. Till the eighth day, people assemble near the *jawara* in the nights, and sing devotional songs. On the nineth day, *jawaras* are taken out in procession by the ladies, and finally immersed in a tank or river. The festival is, however, not observed by the Pankas who are Kabirpanthis. Hareli and Pola coincide with the agricultural operations. These festivals are observed for the welfare of cattle during the months of Sravana and Bhadra, respectively, Chherchhera is observed in the month of Magha. Till 'forties the festival used to be a gay occasion. but now it has lost much of its old vigour. On Magha-*Purnima* day, teachers and students used to go from house to house for the collection of grains, etc., which were to be sold later to procure furniture for the schools. Now in some parts of this District, young people go dancing and singing from house to house for collection, Tija in Bhadra is celebrated by women only for the welfare of family. Paradoxically enough, in many a cases, young married females of lower castes who go to their parents' house to celebrate Tija, do not return to their husband after the Tija, and become *choori*-wife of somebody,[2] Madai festival is to propitiate the village-gods in the month of Kartika. It is a festival of this area, and

1. Ibid., p. 37.
2. Ibid., p. 127.

gahira-dance forms the special feature of attraction. The dates of this festival are announced in advance, and people from adjoining villages converge here to witness it. It is generally held on market-days, and at market places.

The Dussehra festival had been the pride of festivals in the native States and *zamindaris*, which were merged to form the present Durg District. At Khairagarh town, the fair is celebrated and managed by the ruling family of Khairagarh. Diwali and Gobardhan-*Puja* are the principal festivals and are also specially celebrated by the Rawats. *Gahira-nach* and Gaura-*Puja* are thoroughly enjoyed by them. People from adjoining areas flock together on these occasions to witness the celebrations.

Kamaichhat is the same as Harchhat elsewhere, and is the festival of married women. It is celebrated for the welfare of their children and husbands. Goddess Gauri is worshipped on the occasion. In Chhattisgarh, the women in villages use twigs of *kamar* or *khamar* tree to clean their teeth on this day and hence the name Kamarchhat is given to the festival.[1] Nawakhai is the festival of new-eating, which falls in the month of Asvina. It is celebrated by all in the villages. A handful of paddy plants are offered to deities. The new rice is offered to 'Durpata Deota', i.e., the basil (*tulsi*) plant after performing the *hom* and breaking coconut.[2] The *prasad*, and the new rice cooked with other delicious dishes are taken by the people on the occasion.

Another festival, typical of Chhattisgarh, is known as Goura-Gouri, which is celebrated in the month of Kartika, before the Diwali festival. Mainly Kurmi and Rawats celebrate it. Five days before Diwali. *chaura*, a platform, is erected over which are placed seven kinds of flowers, leaves of basil and some rice grains. Seven unmarried girls pound these things seven times, after which incense is burnt and *arti* is performed. The songs are sung, invoking various deities. On Dhanteras day, Goura is installed, and male and female images of Lord Shiva and Parvati are prepared. A few people get possessed by Mahadeo or Parvati During the course of these activities, who when asked suggest the cures and remedy of suffering people. Mock-marriage is performed between the Gouri-Goura idols on the Diwali Day, and then these images are immersed. The worship is mainly for the fertility and fulfilment of wishes.

The 'Nam-Saptah' and 'Manas-Sammelan', in which god's names is recited in continuation, and *Ramayan-path*, is held, have also gained much popularity in recent years. The other sources of recreation in the rural areas are *natak*, *nautanki*, *Bhajans*, etc. A few villages where the facility of library and community listening radioset is available. show keen interest in the radio listening.

All the villagers believe in going to holy places or *teerth*, as they call it. Religious fairs, which are also centres of pilgrimage are held in the District at

1. Ibid., p. 129.
2. Ibid., p. 130.

many places, *Shivratri* fairs at Changori and Dashrangpur in February/March, and *Magha-Purnima* fairs at Jhirna, Khartara, Sahaspur in Kawardha Tahsil, and Chaknar in Khairagarh Tahsil, attract people from adjoining areas. At the time of Shivratri and Makar Sankranti, many from the District go to Rajim, in Raipur District, to take a dip at the confluence of the Mahanadi and the Pairi. Satnamis and Kabirpanthis also sometimes go to Bhandar and Damakheda, respectively, in Raipur District, where their head-Guru lives. Berla fair in Bemetara Tahsil, Shiva-*Mela* at Mohara in Kartika, Kali-Mai fair at Rajnandgaon in Agrahyana, Navratri fairs at Dongargarh in Chaitra, and again in Asvina, are important local fairs which attract a large number of pilgrims. In Kawardha, Kunwar Achhariya *Mela* at Shinghangarh in Chaitra, Bhoram Dev-ka-*Mela* at Chhapri in Phalguna and Pritampur *Mela* at Jashtola in Phalguna are also locally important fairs.

The principal religious festivals of Muslims, as elsewhere, are Id-ul-Fitr, Id-uz-Zuha, Muharram and Mliad-un-Nabi. The *Urs* of Saiyad Baba Atalshah at Rajnandgaon and *Urs* of Hazrat Baba Abdul Rehman Shah Kabuli at Durg, are important Muslim fairs, which are largely attended. The former is a two day fair and latter three day fair, which are managed by their respective *Urs* committees.

Mahavira-Jayanti in Chaitra, among the Jains, Guru Nanak Birthday on Kartik *Purnima*, among the Sikhs, and Christmas Day in December, among the Christians are other important festivals. A detailed list of fairs is also given in the Appendix B.

Songs and Dances

Dadariyas are the mainstay of Chhattisgarhi folk-poetry, and Rawats excel in it. Some of these *dadariyas* are in the nature of questions and answers. Devotional songs, and songs at the time of Holi festival are also enjoyed by the people.

The rich cultural heritage of community dances is still preserved by the people in this part of the State to some extent. The popular community dances are *danda-nach*, *suwa-nach*, *Karma-nach*, etc. During the festival of Jawara, the young and the old alike participated in *danda-nach*, and all the caste-people take part in it. Practically, the whole month is danced out. The *sua* or *suwa* is a parrot-dance, which is danced by the females during the time of Diwali festival. The image of parrot in clay is placed in a bamboo basket, before which two groups of women dance with the accompaniment of singing and clapping. Like *dadariva*, which is the main pillar of Chhattisgarh folk-poetry it is the most popular feature. Among the Gonds, *karma*, *saila* and *reina* are important folk-dances. *Karma* is a mixed dance, while the *saila* and *reina* are exclusively dances of males and females, respectively. *Karma* is danced with the accompaniment of the music of *timki*, *mandar*, and songs, which are in the form of questions and answers. The theme of the songs is often sexual.

Public Games

The children play with toy bullock-cart, *ghar-gondia* and *dauka-dauki*. The latter two are the reproduction of various household activities. *Dauka-dauki* is the depiction of husband and wife's role. Other games are *pittul*, *luka-chhipi*, hide and seek, *bhanwra*, swinging the wooden-top, *gilli-danda*, *banti*, *goda* and *fugdi*. Children in the 'teens play *kabaddi*, *bajni*, wrestling, *noonpat*, an outdoor game and *gendi*, the game of stilts. The girls usually play *bhotkul* an outdoor game. Among the adults and grown-ups, the popular games are *nou-gotiya*, *pasa-chaupad*, *tiri-chouk*, similar to *pasa*, *ram-chiwara*, etc. Games of cards are played at the festival occasions, and these are all simple games known as *nakkas*, *kat-patti*, *bhen*, *teen-do-panch*, etc. During the Pola festival, the most interesting is the bullock race competition, in which the whole of the rural community takes keen interest. Owing to spread of schools in the rural areas, the facility of hockey, football, volleyball, etc., has also been extended. The volleyball is, however, gaining much popularity among the rural masses as an outdoor game.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

The agricultural scene of Durg District is dominated by the preponderance of paddy cultivation. Rice not only forms the mainstay of the diet of the majority of people, but also bears a large influence on their life and economic condition. People eat rice in morning, noon and night and spend their lives growing rice. Their health, wealth and happiness depend upon it. The calling of agriculture provides bread to the majority of the people. Rice rules their lives. Out of the total 'workers' enumerated at the last Census (1961) 80.19 per cent were engaged in cultivation, 61.59 per cent as cultivators and 18.60 per cent as agricultural labourers. According to the provisional figures of Census of 1971 the combined percentage of these workers came to 81.1. This percentage will rise further if people engaged in allied occupations, viz., marketing, transport and processing of agricultural produce are also added.

LAND UTILIZATION

According to Land Records Statistics the total geographical area of the District was 48.09 lakh acres in the year 1964-65. Forests accounted for 12.38 lakh acres or 25.7 per cent of the total area. This included forests controlled both by Forest and Revenue Departments. Area not available for cultivation amounted to 3.43 lakh acres or 7.1 per cent. Barren and unculturable land included in the above land-use, (i.e., not available for cultivation) was quite small, i.e., 0.80 lakh acres or 1.7 per cent of the District area. Land under permanent pastures and other grazing lands was responsible for 3.81 lakh acres which was equivalent to 7.9 per cent of the area of the District. This was the third important land-use after cropped area and forests. Culturable waste is another important classification of land and contributed 0.89 lakh acres or 1.8 per cent. Fallow lands comprising current and old fallows amounted to 2.55 lakh acres, which worked out to 5.4 per cent of the land area. Area sown is the most important land use which provides food to the people, fodder to the cattle, and raw materials to a number of industries. All human activity subsists and surrounds the fields and the farms. In the same year 25 lakh acres were sown under crops. This represented 52.0 per cent of the land surface of the District. This is the ever expanding land use. It was recorded as 23.4 lakh acres in 1950-51 and 24.4 lakh acres in 1961-62.

Double Cropping

In 1964-65, double-cropped area was recorded as 8.7 lakh acres or 35 per

cent of the net cropped area in that year. Area sown more than once has continued to expand. In 1950-51 it amounted to 3.8 lakh acres and increased to 8.0 lakh acres in 1960-61. Nearly all the black-soil rice fields are double-cropped by the system called *utera*.

Double crops are sown in *dorsa* and *kanhar* fields, and very rarely in *matasi* fields. When two crops are taken off the same land, the first of them is always paddy. There are two methods of double-cropping. In one the first crop of paddy is the substantial crop and the after-crops are sown in a casual way without any preparation of the field, thus giving a small out-turn. This method is called locally *utera*, *Urad*, *mung*, *masur*, gram, linseed, *lakhori* and *batra* are all sown *utera* in the month of September after Das abadner of ore Diwali. The most favourite *utera* is *urad-mung*. It entails no labour and requires no expense except that involved in reaping the crop after paddy has been harvested. The seed is scattered broadcast in the slush of the standing paddy, 15 to 30 days before the paddy crop is cut. The second crop is cut in the month of February. The only crop for which the paddy-fields are ploughed up is gram. *Lakhori* can be sown when there are three inches of water in the field, *urad* and *mung* when there are one or two inches, while for linseed and gram there should be very little water. In all cases the water is let out of the field three or four days after the crop is sown, the grain being scattered and left to germinate. This method is followed over the greater part of the District. In the other method of double-cropping the second crop, generally linseed or gram is preferred; paddy of a light variety is sown broadcast and reaped early so as to allow the field to be prepared for the second crop. The double-cropped area depends entirely on the rainfall of the last half of September and beginning of October, and therefore, exhibits the most extraordinary fluctuations; if the September rain is copious, the area sown is large, but in a year of light rainfall it is small. In the south-west, three-fourths of the paddy land is double-cropped in a favourable year, whereas in the Nandkathi tract in the north-east the area so treated is only one-fourth. The *utera* crop is said to be half of an ordinary crop in *kanhar* and less than that in *dorsa*. The increase of double-cropping is the only sign of intensive cultivation. Transplantation of paddy was a development of later period.

Culturable Waste

Culturable waste which comprised 1.19 lakh acres in 1953-54 has gradually come down to 0.89 lakh acres in 1964-65. This may be attributed mainly to more proper classification of area and efforts made to yield such land to the plough of the landless. Out of the culturable waste recorded in the year 1964-65, it was estimated that 0.54 lakh acres was immediately reclaimable, 0.24 lakh acres after some improvement and the rest, i e., 0.11 lakh acres was made up of small patches of land and could be reclaimed only at considerable expense.

Wastelands Survey and Reclamation Committee which was appointed by

By the same time, four minor tanks had also been constructed while a fifth one was under construction capable altogether of irrigating a gross area of 3,224 acres out of 10,588 acres commanded.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Indian Irrigation Commission, investigation and construction of works was taken in hand in 1906. C.H. Craddock, Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces and Berar prepared a programme of construction of irrigation works and made definite proposals for carrying out these new schemes, which the Government of India, after a good deal of correspondence, accepted in 1909. Irrigation schemes concerning Durg District included the Tandula Canal project. The history of the development of irrigation in the Mahakoshal region thus started with the implementation of the policy to provide protection against crop failure in years of drought.

Tandula tank project credited to be the biggest tank was mooted early in April, 1905, and the estimate was for Rs. 24.5 lakhs, the area to be irrigated being only 46,048 acres. Subsequently the scheme was greatly improved and enlarged in scope and an estimate for Rs. 101.1 lakhs was submitted in 1908 for sanction to the Government of India.

The work commenced in 1910 and completed in 1921 at a cost of Rs. 120.13 lakhs. The designed area under the canal system is only 1,65,000 acres (66,820 ha) though the canal is actually irrigating an area slightly in excess of the designed area. Tandula canal system is mainly responsible for the irrigation of *kharif* crops in the District. The tank has a storage of 9,712 Mcft. The work is located about one mile south of Balod and about 40 miles south of Durg, binding the Tandula and the Sukha rivers about one mile above their confluence. It started functioning in 1918 when 0.194 lakh acres was irrigated. There was no major fluctuation in the irrigated area till 1940-41 when it rose to 1.48 lakh acres. From 1942-43 onwards irrigation increased steadily. In 1958-59 it reached 1.64 lakh acres and in 1961-62, to the extent of 1.7 lakh acres.

The Tandula irrigation project covers Balod, Durg and Bemetara Tahsils with its 68.8 miles long main canal, 513 miles of distributaries and minors. During the Third Five Year Plan the full reservoir level of the tank was raised by two feet thus increasing its useful capacity by 963 Mcft., i.e., from 9,712 Mcft. to 10,675 Mcft. This was necessitated to cope up with the additional demand of water for the Bhilai Steel Plant. The present irrigation potential has been fixed at 1.66 lakh acres.

The progress of irrigation works was interrupted due to the interposition of the First World War, Further construction of irrigation works was held in abeyance on account of the recommendations of the Central Provinces Irrigation Committee (1927-29), which stated *inter-alia* that no new work should be

undertaken on any appreciable scale till the Government was satisfied with the development of and the returns from the works under operation and it was proved beyond doubt that the cultivators appreciate the advantages of irrigation and were prepared to pay reasonably for them. In case it was decided eventually to construct new State works, the activity should be confined to Chhattisgarh and Balaghat only. As the returns continued to be low and the cultivators in general had not developed irrigation consciousness further construction work remained suspended till the year 1944, when in furtherance of the Grow More Food Campaign a beginning was made and construction and repair of some small scale irrigation works were taken up.

The Grow More Food Campaign launched by the Government of India for additional food production included the construction of medium and minor irrigation schemes by the Irrigation Department and petty schemes by the Agriculture Department. The latter category of schemes comprised, (i) sinking of new wells. (ii) repairs of old wells, (iii) installation of *rahats* and pumping-sets, and (iv) construction and repair of small village tanks.

Inspite of the inducement of financial assistance extended by Government, results were not encouraging. Consequently, Government changed the policy and entrusted the execution of schemes relating to tanks irrigating more than 50 acres to the State Irrigation Department. Later, when a separate Village Project Division was sanctioned tanks irrigating upto 600 acres each were also included in the scheme

The introduction of the First Five Year Plan in 1951 made a major shift in Government policy as regards sanctioning of irrigation projects. Two medium irrigation projects, Saroda and Gondli were included for implementation in the First Plan.

Gondli project was primarily intended to supplement the water supply in Tandula command. It was sanctioned by the Government in 1953. It is located across the Jujhara and the Genji nullahs near Gondli village, about five miles west of Balod in Durg District. The water is impounded by means of an earthen dam, 14,860 ft. long with maximum height of 67.5 ft. The tank has a capacity of 3,019 Mcft. of water, which is supplied to Tandula canal system by means of a feeder channel 5.6 miles long. It was designed for 52,500 acres of paddy cultivation, 7,500 acres to be irrigated in its independent command and additional irrigation of 45,000 acres was contemplated in the command of the Tandula Canal. Tandula Canal was proposed to be remodelled for this purpose.

The work on this feeder reservoir was commenced in June 1954, and completed in June, 1956, with a total outlay of Rs. 89.20 lakhs. The object of additional irrigation could not materialise fully as bulk of water supply

from this tank had to be earmarked for the Bhilai Steel Plant leaving just enough to irrigate an area of 7,614 acres in its independent command, a small fraction of the originally envisaged area. The plan of augmenting irrigation under Tandula canal was dropped.

Full reservoir level of the tank was raised during the Third Five Year Plan thus increasing its live capacity to 3,418 Mcft. This was done to cope with the increasing demand of the Bhilai Steel Plant and the growing ancillary industries of its neighbourhood.

Work on Saroda tank commenced in 1954 and was brought to completion in 1965. The project envisaged the construction of an earthen dam across the Utani nullah, a tributary of the Seonath, after its emergence into the plains through a narrow passage between two high ranges of hills in Kawardha Tahsil of the District. The length of the earthen dam is 1,430 ft. and its maximum height 88 ft. The length of the main canal is 24.4 miles and that of minors and distributaries 39 miles. The area designed for irrigation is 18,168 acres. The estimated cost is Rs. 143.48 lakhs. Besides, 10 village projects, costing Rs. 7.29 lakhs and with irrigation potential of 3,430 acres were completed during the First Plan period.

Two scarcity area schemes Dumaria and Sahaspur Lohara were also included in the First Plan. But they were lacking in necessary investigations and surveys, the logical outcome of suspension of irrigation activities during the two decades preceding the First Plan. The latter scheme had to be dropped as it was found to be unfeasible. Dumaria tank is located in Kawardha Tahsil and work could be started only during the Third Plan period. It envisages the construction of a dam 5,000 ft. long and 54 ft. high across the Suha nullah. Estimated to cost Rs. 36.20 lakhs, it is expected to benefit an area of 4,500 acres through its 4.9 miles of main canal and 27 miles of minors and distributaries.

Minor irrigation schemes, four in number, were included in the First Plan but none could be completed during the same period. Some particulars of these schemes are given below :—

Name of Scheme	Location (Tahsil)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Area Proposed for Irrigation (Acres)	Year of Completion	Catchment Area (Sq. Miles)	Length of Main Dam (Feet)	Maximum Height of Dam (Feet)
Dharanala	Khairagarh	16.78	2,875	1960	5.30	1,990	50
Surhi	-Do-	82.92	15,790	1965	36.87	2,089	69
Nawegaon	Do-	50.61	3.900	1965	10.75	2,530	58
Madiyan	-Do-	27.98	6,200	1965	11.3	2,700	41.5

Besides the above scheme, money was also allotted to the Community Development Blocks during the Second Plan for the Development of minor irrigation, viz., construction and repair of small village projects under Grow More Food Campaign. Work on 12 such schemes was started during this Plan but remained incomplete and had to be spilled over to the next Plan.

Third Plan laid stress on minor irrigation schemes and specially improvement of old existing tanks. Funds were provided through different heads, viz., Public Works Department, Community Development/National Extension Service Sector and Tribal Sector.

Capacity of Tandula, Gondli and Morid tanks was raised but the benefit accrued mostly to the Bhilai complex.

Work was started on Kharkhara project, which was originally conceived as an irrigation project to irrigate 43,500 acres on the right and 26,000 acres on the left bank of the river Kharkhara. It will now be utilized to supply water to the Bhilai Steel Plant whose demand of water has shot up from 1,800-2,400 Mcft. to about 5,000 Mcft. on account of the expansion of the capacity of the Plant and growth of auxiliary industries in its neighbourhood.

The project provides for the construction of a reservoir, with a capacity of 5,000 Mcft. of effective storage equivalent to 500 numbers of Maroda C tank at Durg or 140 numbers of Budha tank at Balod, and 22 miles long feeder canal to deliver the water into the existing Tandula Main Canal. The feeder canal takes off from the periphery of the reservoir in the village Mundatola. It is a contour canal winding its way through heavy cuttings or fillings. The capacity at head is 500 cusecs. It joins the Tandula Main Canal just at its head.

The reservoir is situated at a distance of 25 miles from Rajnandgaon and 19 miles from Balod. The reservoir is formed by damming the Kharkhara river near village Sahagaon and Banderchuha in Balod Tahsil. Catchment area at the site is 143.50 sq. miles with an average rainfall of 55.79 inches. Waterspread area of the reservoir will be 6,000 acres (9.40 sq. miles), when it is full, i.e., 82 feet above the river bed level. Cultivated area coming under tank basin is 4,000 acres, consisting of 9 complete villages and 2 part villages. Total compensation amounted to Rs. 38 lakhs.

The reservoir has natural boundaries on three sides in the form of hills and high ground. The fourth side is provided by putting an artificial barrier in the form of an earthen dam, 3,650 feet long, exclusive of the waste weir. Its maximum height above the river bed level is 92 feet. It is 15 feet wide at the top, though the maximum width at the botton is as large as 650 feet. Adequate provision has been made for preventing seepage of tank water. To allow escape of

surplus water brought by floods when the reservoir is full, 1,100 feet long masonry waste-weir has been provided. The weir can discharge 40,000 cusecs of water with a flood lift of 4½ ft. above its crest.

A masonry tower with two vents of 7 ft. x 6 ft. controlled by gates is provided at the head of the right bank feeder canal. Flow from the reservoir into the canal is regulated by the gates. On the left bank an outlet is provided. It is a twin barrel R. C. C. box conduit through the earthen dam. At the head of the conduit, a masonry tower is provided with two vents of 7 ft. x 6 ft. which are controlled by gates.

The project was expected to be complete by March 1967. The reservoir had been completed earlier and was ready to store in the rains of 1966. Preliminary works of buildings and approach roads were commenced in 1963. The reservoir was ready within a short span of 2½ years. The completion of the project is likely to involve an outlay of Rs. 4.5 crores.

Average labour strength employed on the project during the last two years was 4,800 and 5,200, respectively. At peak period the number rose to 10,000. The project also employed about 450 operators, drivers, technicians and time keepers.

Total earth work on the dam was 290 lakh cft. and on canals 914 lakh cft. This earth is sufficient for formation of new road from Nagpur to Jagdalpur via Raipur. The construction of the project also involved 11.34 lakh cft. of masonry and 10.67 lakh cft. of concrete work.

The project is meant for water supply to the Bhilai Steel Plant and the industrial complex round it. But indirectly it will help in stabilizing the irrigation under Tandula-Gondli system. It will also provide irrigation on the left bank of the river Kharkhara when other sources of water supply develop. The reservoir will be a source of revenue due to tank-bed cultivation and development of fishery. Besides, the site being only 25 miles distant from Rajnandgaon can become a good recreation centre for the town.

As part of the Fourth Plan, Surveys and Stage—I estimates of many schemes are ready with the Department. They include improvement and renovation of existing tanks, new tanks or diversion weirs. Tentative ceiling for Fourth Plan is Rs. 35.80 lakhs under P.W.D. Sector. Additional funds under Block Sector are also expected.

Work on the improvement and renovation of Mohlai tank has been taken up as Fourth Plan scheme under P.W.D. Sector at a cost of Rs. 2.07 lakhs to irrigate 350 acres. Two other schemes, viz., Khapri Anicut (Khairagarh Tahsil) and Rajnandgaon tank (Kawardha Tahsil) have been accorded priority.

Scarcity Works

Monsoon failed in the year 1965-66 and is reported to be the leanest on record during the last 53 years. As a result, yield of crops was very poor and scarcity condition prevailed in extensive areas.

Government lost no time in opening relief works to relieve the hardship of the people. Care was taken to see that useful works are taken up so that when completed, they become permanent assets of the District.

After the failure of 1965 rains 15 minor irrigation works including those for repairs and renovation were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.84 lakhs. Subsequently, after failure of 1966 monsoon, 15 more works were started or proposed to be started at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.88 lakhs.

Apart from the above relief works Kharkara project helped to employ a large force of labour. A list of irrigation works appears in Appendix-A.

Irrigation in the District is only of protective type and is entirely dependent on rainfall. However, Durg District has the enviable position as regards irrigation amongst all the districts of Madhya Pradesh. The District commanded the second largest irrigated area in the State amounting to 2.52 lakh acres in 1964-65. The first rank was held by Raipur District with 4.39 lakh acres. From the point of view of the proportion of net cultivated area in receipt of irrigation, Durg with 10.0 per cent occupied the tenth position with Balaghat District (36.7 per cent) leading.

The first decade of the current Century presented a picture where the almost entire irrigation was done from tanks, though here and there streams were bunded and the surplus water carried into the fields, the wells were practically unknown except in the gardens round the village site.

The total area irrigated in 1909-10 amounted to 73.7 thousand acres (67.2 thousand acres of *kharif* and 6.5 thousand acres of *rabi*). It has been observed that in those days in case the *kharif* harvest was excellent the farmer became disinclined to trouble himself about *rabi*. *Rabi* irrigation was a *terra incognita* to the cultivator of Chhattisgarh and irrigation of *rabi* was only tentative. With a view to popularizing *rabi* irrigation, Agriculture Department had supplied Assistants to demonstrate its advantages in village fields and some speculative *malguzars* had followed the lead thus given. It was, however, felt that the cultivator realised the advantage of *rabi* irrigation and will begin to pay for it though it may be for some years before he learns to pay a fair rate.

Available figures show that total net area irrigated in 1909-10 was 52,000

acres which increased to 1,45,100[1] acres in 1920-21 and 2,06,500 acres in 1942-43. Further progress in this direction was registered when net area irrigated was returned as 2.26 lakh acres in 1951-52 and 2.36 lakh acres in 1961-62.

In 1964-65. net area irrigated reached high water-mark of 2.52 lakh acres. Bulk of the irrigation was done by canals, viz., 2.14 lakh acres (85 per cent). Tanks contributed 22,620 acres (9 per cent), wells 5,400 acres (2 per cent) and other sources 9,975 acres (4 per cent).

Canals

Canals occupy the most important place in the irrigated agriculture of the District. Canal irrigation got a fillip in the District with the commissioning of the Tandula Tank in 1918.

The canals provide safeguard against failure of rains in the ripening period of paddy crop. But they do not provide assured irrigation. In a year of really bad rainfall as in 1965-66, the canal system failed to give even protective irrigation to the crops under the command of the canal system. If the early monsoon is heavy and the subsequent rainfall is good then only the canals serve from August to October.

Tanks

The undulating nature of the bulk of the District lends itself easily to the construction of tanks.

The situation obtaining in the first decade of this Century was that the existing village tanks were intended almost without exception for storing water for domestic purposes during hot weather, though in a year of heavy and unseasonable rainfall, some of these were utilized for irrigating the crops. As a rule, these tanks were constructed too deep in the ground to be of much service for irrigation. These tanks, usually with very small catchment areas, were entirely useless in short rainfall. Irrigation was effected by cutting a gap in the bunds.

It appears that the use of tanks for irrigation purposes increased with development of irrigation consciousness among the cultivators.

The distribution of tanks differs widely Thus, for instance, in the 'Thirties in the flat Nawagarh area there was a tank in every four villages while in the undulating Nankathi group there were four tanks per village. In size and irrigation capacity, they varied enormously, from a large lake like Wararbandh to the merest pond or *dabri*. The best known tanks in the District were the

1. Statistics of Rainfall, Area, Production & Trade of Agricultural Commodities in Madhya Pradesh, Vol. II, p. 91.

very large and picturesque Wararbandh, traditionally reputed to have been dug in one night by certain Urias in memory of a Uria girl who had fled from the love of a king and burnt herself on the spot; the Sahadabandha tank in Durg with a waterspread of a hundred acres and the Budha tank of Balod, which was capable of irrigating nearly 700 acres.

It was reported that the main canal system cut off many tanks from its catchment area and in some cases from its commanded area thus reducing private irrigation.

Though a number of large irrigation tanks were constructed by the State, small tanks still constitute a sizable part of tank irrigation. The District is studded with a number of small tanks. These tanks were previously under the management of *malguzars* and *zamindars*. After the abolition of proprietary rights the management of these tanks passed on to the Government. Government has decided to repair all these tanks urgently and develop irrigation from them to the maximum extent. Area irrigated by tanks amounted to 31,710 acres in 1951-52 and 22,620 acres in 1964-65. In 1964-65 there were 18 reservoirs, 106 tanks with *ayacuts* 100 acres or more and 4,753 tanks with *ayacuts* less than 100 acres. The tanks are mostly dual-purpose tanks constructed mainly for *nistar* purposes, though they are used for irrigation as well.

Wells

In the opening years of the present Century, well-irrigation was practically unknown. Well-irrigation has made little progress in the District. The area irrigated by wells was recorded as 1,600[1] acres in 1910-11 and 2,100 acres in 1947-48. During the last 15 years there has been some increase in well irrigation, when the area increased from 3,900 acres in 1951-52 to 5,400 acres in 1964-65. In 1964-65 there were 22,720 wells which were used for irrigation, out of which 12,910 were non-masonry. Well-irrigation is mostly confined to vegetable gardening and hence situated in the backyard of *abadi* zone. The reason for the unpopularity of this mode of irrigation lies in the predominance of paddy cultivation whose requirements of water are abundant which wells are unable to meet.

Water is located at a depth of 30 to 50 ft. The cost of constructing a well depends upon the strata found below. A *kutcha* well may cost about Rs. 500 in the vicinity of the Mahanadi basin when the same may cost a thousand rupees elsewhere. A *pucca* well may cost Rs. 2,000 or even more.

Tar

Considerable area is irrigated from *tars*, i.e., channels leading the dammed up waters of a nullah to the paddy land lower down. The protection afforded

1 Ibid, p. 103.

by tanks and *tars* is adequate in short breaks during a fair monsoon, but most inadequate in a prolonged break or in a year of deficient rainfall. Irrigation by *tar* has always been popular because of the ease with which it can be worked.

Modes of Irrigation

Hand operated lever know as *paicotta* is the old appliance, commonly used for lifting water. *Mote* is rarely met with in the District. Use of diesel pumps and Persian Wheels started in the District before World War II, but after the introduction of the post-War Development schemes, the use of these water-lifting devices increased steadily. With the rising irrigation consciousness on the part of farmers, diesel and electric pumps are appearing in larger numbers. The light bullock-drawn *rahats* have also been introduced in the District and are getting popular.

Crops Irrigated

Almost the entire benefit of irrigation, 90 per cent in 1964-65, is appropriated by paddy. In the same year, out of the total irrigated area of 2.52 lakh acres, paddy had 2.44 lakh irrigated acres. This means that 18 per cent of the paddy crop was raised with the help of irrigation.

There is considerable scope for the development of minor irrigation, i.e., through construction of small tanks, the digging of wells in areas of shallow water-table, the bunding of nullahs and by the installation of power pumps on the wells and nullahs.

Tank irrigation has been found to be suitable for Kawardha and Khairagarh Tahsils.

Soil Erosion

Some tracts of the District are afflicted by the menace of soil erosion, viz., in Kawardha, Bemetara, Berla, Nawagarh, Balod and Dongargarh. This tendency is particularly noticeable in river banks and hilly areas. The erosion is occasioned by rapid run-off of water. Sheet and rill erosion are seen in very severe form. Contour-bunding operations have been started for conserving the soil and till the end of the year 1966 about 47 thousand acres were thus protected.

Soils

The proper classification of soils and their distribution in the District is still a question which has not been quite solved and is still beset with difficulties. People themselves use terms loosely and their connotations show marked variation from one tract to another. Due to admixture of various soils, difficulties crop up in forming generalized order of their distribution.

The work done under Rice Research Scheme reveals that although soils are generally described as light sandy soils, yet medium and heavy soils are also found. The calcium in these soils is usually present in the exchangeable form and varies from 6-60 m.cg., and the soils are poor in reserve of nitrogen. They are also poor in phosphoric acid and humus content. Phosphate ranges from 0.02 to 0.07 per cent. The pH ranges from 5.4 to 8.4. The yield and quality of rice have been found to be influenced by the soil texture.

In the District deep clayey soils with limestone (43-56 per cent clay), yellow sandy loam soils (18-29 per cent clay) and a mixture of these two with medium texture (37-44 per cent clay) predominate. Thus, the soils are classified into three grades, viz., heavy, light and medium and represented as *kanhar*, *matasi* and *dorsa*, respectively.

Kanhar

Kanhar is the best soil of the District. It is a rich deep clay, blue-black or brown-black in colour, extremely fine in structure and very retentive of moisture when dug. It breaks into large clods with flat faces, and when broken the structure is flat and shining.

Dorsa

Dorsa has dark gray colour and is a mixture of black, heavy *kanhar* and light *matasi*. There are two grades of *dorsa*, in one *kanhar* element greatly preponderates over *matasi*, and in the other *vice versa*. *Dorsa* is lighter in colour than *kanhar* and not so deep and sticky.

Matasi

Matasi is a fine-grained sandy loam, yellow or yellowish-white in colour and of no great depth. Its capacity for retaining moisture is limited. The yellow colour of the soil is probably due to a higher degree of hydration of ferric oxide than the red soils.

Bhata

Bhata is another gradation of soil. It is found on the tops of the ridges. It is a hard shallow red soil mixed with gravel. When embanked it gradually takes the colour of *matasi*.

In spite of this broad classification, freaks of nature are occasionally to be met with and one can easily come across *bhata* passing abruptly into *kanhar* or *dorsa* without any medium soils intervening.

Palkachhar and *patpar kachhar* are deposits of clay to be found on the banks of rivers or nullahs consisting of a mixture of sand and clay. If clay predominated in its composition the soil is called *pal*, and if sand, *patpar*.

The paddy soils are *dorsa* and *matasi*. *Matasi* is considered ideal for growing paddy. Early maturing crops like *kodon*, *kutki*, *til* and *kulthi* are grown in *bhata* and *matasi*. *Tur* and late maturing *kodon* are sown in *dorsa* and *kanhar* soils. *Rabi* crops like wheat, gram, linseed, castor, *batra*, *lakh*, *masur*, *urad*, *mung* and *moth* are grown in *dorsa* and *kanhar* soils. *Kachhar* soil in combination with irrigation is best suited for raising lush green crops of vegetables and fruits.

Composition of soils in the different parts of the District is shown in the Table below:—

Durg, Rajnandgaon, Dongargaon	Sandy loam	60%
Balod, Dondi Lohara, Dondi	Loam	20%
Gurur, Gunderdehi, Patan	Clay	15%
	Heavy clay	5%
Dhamdha, Berla, Bemetara	Sandy loam	20%
Saja, Kawardha, Nawagarh	Loam	30%
Bodla, Chhuikhadan	Clay	10%
Dongargarh, Khairagarh	Heavy clay	40%
Manpur, Mohalla Chhurian	Sandy loam	30%
Sahaspur Lohara	Loam	30%
	Clay	30%
	Heavy clay	10%

Crops

The outstanding feature of the pattern of agricultural cropping of Durg District is the preponderance of paddy culture. Not unnaturally, therefore, *siari* or *kharif* crops outweigh *unhari* or *rabi* in importance. In 1963-64 the proportion of *kharif* to *rabi* was 59:41. The Table set forth below portrays the principal crops grown and their outturn in the District during the quinquennium ending 1963-64:

Crop	Area	Out-turn	Standard Yield
	(Acres)	(Tons)	(lbs. per Acre)
Paddy	12,66,618	4,34,207	910
Kodon	4,28,638	40,481	220
Kutki	36,680		
Mung and *Moth*	21,473	1,566	250 (*Kharif*)
Urad	1,92,190	14,385	250 (*Kharif*)
Kulthi	14,159	1,731	350 (*Kharif*)
Lakh (*Teora*)	5,13,642	76,971	350
Masur	19,416	1,963	300
Til	17,319	629	150
Linseed	3,19,029	2[illegible],719	200
Wheat	1,28,000	28.845	420
Gram	1,25,834	20,924	450
Tur	85,873	31,511	1,180

Food crops accounted for 90 per cent of the total cropped area while the remaining 10 per cent was claimed by non-food crops.

As already mentioned paddy is the main crop. In the *rabi* season *lakh*, *lakhori*, wheat, gram, *tur* and linseed are the main crops. Generally *rabi* crops are taken as a double-crop on paddy lands in *utera* cultivation. The *utera* crops are sown broadcast in the paddy fields when the main paddy crop is maturing and is still standing in the field. By the time paddy is harvested the *utera* crops germinate and are well-established in the fields. *Rabi* crops may also be found, sometimes as pure crops, i.e., not taken as *utera*. Lands indifferently prepared or not well-suited to paddy are sown with *kodon*, *kutki*, and *til*.

The sowing of *kharif* crops, viz., paddy, maize, groundnut, *jowar*, etc., starts mostly with the break of monsoon and extends over early-June to mid-August. The sowing of *maghai* or spring *til* commences somewhat late, i.e., in August and continues upto middle of September. The harvesting of *kharif* crops starts from the middle of August and continues upto the middle of January. The *tur* (*arhar*) crop of course remains in the field for a longer period. The harvesting of its late varieties prolongs right upto the close of April. *Utera* crops are sown before the harvesting of paddy crops. The sowing of *rabi* crops like wheat, gram, *mung*, linseed, etc., starts towards the close of September and continues upto early December. The harvesting of *rabi* extends over mid-December to April-end.

Usually, it is paddy and some pulses that have to be stored. The out-turn of others is so little that the problem of storage seldom arises. This is done in bins prepared out of earth-mud.

Paddy

Paddy is by far the most important crop of the District. Paddy covered 5.78 lakh acres in 1906-07 (or 33 per cent of the gross cropped area) which in 1964-65 occupied 13.26 lakh acres or 36 per cent of the total cropped area. Except for a small area, i.e., about 6,000 acres, the whole of paddy was sown broadcast.

Mode of Cultivation

There are two systems of paddy cultivation in vogue in the District, viz., broadcast and transplantation.

Broadcasting

On the approach of rains, the cultivators carry sweepings, farm-yard-manure, tank silt, etc., and spread them in the fields. When the soil has become sufficiently softened by the first few showers of the monsoon to admit of plough being worked, the seed is scattered broadcast, and the field is ploughed once

where the soil is black and the surface fairly clear off weeds. This method is called *batter*. If the soil is *matasi*, the field requires one ploughing prior to the sowing of seed and a cross ploughing to cover it up and this method is called *back-dum*. There are two methods of broadcast sowing, which are locally known as *loi* and *khurra*. The *loi* method is followed when there is extensive rain which does not permit the sowing of the seed at the proper time. The seed is steeped in cold water and kept for four or five hours; it is then placed in a heap, hot water is poured over it and it is covered with straw for night. Next morning, it is spread out on the ground, and it germinates. A soon as there is break in the weather, the sprouted seed is sown after the field is puddled and planked. The other method called *khurra* is resorted to when the rains are late. The seed is simply scattered on *kanhar* or *dorsa* land before the rains and it is ploughed. When rain falls the seed germinates. In all the systems of sowing, when the seedlings attain the height of six inches and fields contain three inches of standing water, *hal* (plough) is worked. This operation called *biasi* is described hereunder.

Broadcast paddy naturally requires thinning. The method by which it is effected is peculiar to Chhattisgarh, and is termed *biasi*. The operation commences about the middle of July, when the plants are about three to six inches in height, and consists in passing a *hal* through the fields and uprooting many of the young shoots. The theory behind the operation is that the broadcasted rice grows up so close that the plants would kill each other out if some of them are not deliberately eliminated. A subsidiary benefit is that the soil gets loosened and aerated. Along with the paddy plants, all the weeds and grass are also uprooted and are easily removed as they lie floating. The banks of the fields are carefully repaired beforehand, for the operation is quite fatal if the surface of the field is not covered with two to three inches of water. Heavy rain must then have fallen before *biasi* can be attempted. In *matasi* and *dorsa* fields clods are then broken with the *kopar* but this is not necessary in *kanhar* fields. After *biasi* a break of fine weather is hailed with pleasure, but if there is excess of sunshine and consequent evaporation, more harm than good results.

In the beginning of this century, transplantation was practically unknown in Durg District, though a few *malguzars* worked some of their best fields near the village site on this system at the beginning of July. Transplantation was also occasionally done in fields where the seed had not germinated. The area transplanted in 1906-07 was only 147 acres. Even now transplantation has not made much headway, as already noted.

Transplantation

It is locally named as *ropa*. There are again two ways of transplantation, viz., ordinary and Japanese method. This system is adopted when there exists facility of irrigation at hand. The seed is sown at one place and seedlings after they have grown to about six inches height, transplanted to the fields already

puddled by giving three or four ploughings and two plankings. The Japanese method is of recent origin. It is an improved type of transplantation with certain modifications.

Weeding or Nindai

If the paddy is thick or if there are weeds in it after *biasi*, the *koper* is taken over it. After *biasi* operation, the crop requires two or three weedings. Standing about ankle deep in water is not a very healthy occupation, but the operation is of such prime importance that whole family-women as well as men are engaged in it during the months of August and September.

Harvesting and Threshing

The harvesting of light paddy *harhuna* begins early in October and lasts till the end of the month. Reaping of different kinds goes on more or less continuously until early in December. The crop is cut with sickles and allowed to dry for two or three days on the ground and is then stacked on the threshing floor called *khala* or *kharyan*. Threshing (*minjai*) is effected by means of bullocks.

Seed and Out-turn

The paddy seed sown per acre is 85 to 90 lbs. but the density of sowing varies with soil *Matasi* which is a soil *par-excellence* for paddy requires about 10 to 12 lbs. of seed less per acre and in case of *gawarasa* field, the quantity sown is still further reduced The average out-turn of un-irrigated paddy is 1,000 lbs. per acre while that of irrigated is 1,400 lbs The average out-turn by ordinary transplantation is 1,600 lbs., while by Japanese method it is 2,800 lbs. per acre.

Manure

The farm-yard-manure is generally applied to the paddy fields every second or third year. The tank silt called *ladi* is also used for manuring. Since the inception of Grow More Food Campaign the use of chemical fertilizers, specially ammonium sulphate, has become very popular. Green manuring by sowing sunn, *dhaincha* is also adopted for growing better paddy crop.

Varieties

The number of varieties found in the District is legion. They resolve themselves into three classes, viz., *harhuna* or early paddy grown on light soils, such as, *matasi*, which is reaped within 90 days of its sowing, *manzola* (medium) also called *ardhana*, grown on richer soils and *mai*, (late) which takes the longest time and is grown on heavy soils called *kanhar*, and level lands. The *harhuna* crop is as a rule reaped from 10th to 31st October, *manzola* or *ardhana* from 1st to 15th November and *mai* from 15th November to 8th December. The varieties most common are Bhejari, Safar and Nagpuri Gurmatia. The Nagpuri

Gurmatia variety is the local name of R-7 Ajan, which is one of the improved varieties advocated by the Agriculture Department. Nagkeshar crosses of paddy, which are improved varieties, have replaced local Nagkeshar entirely. Early varieties do not claim popularity on a large scale. Paddy is chiefly sown on *matasi*, *dorsa*, and *kanhar* land but it is said to give a better return on *matasi* than on *dorsa*. *Matasi* requires plenty of rains while *kanhar* land will give a crop when rain is short. Paddy is always sown alone as the conditions of its cultivation do not suit any other crop. But most of the embanked black soil in this District is double-cropped.

Varieties of paddy at present widely grown in the District are R-2 Nungi, R-3 Sultugurmatia, X-116 (Bhondu X Parewa), X-4 (Luchai X Budhiabako), X-18 (Luchai X Gurmatia) and X-2 (Luchai X Gurmatia X Burma). These improved varieties were mainly obtained as a result of Rice Research Scheme which was in operation at Raipur during 1932-44. Subsquent improvement work in local varieties gave Safri-17. The introduction of exotic paddy strain, viz., Taichung Native-I signalized the ushering in of a revolution in paddy culture in the District.

Kodon and Kutki

After paddy the most important *kharif* crop is *kodon*. *Kodon* together with *kutki* is the favourite and staple foodgrain of the aboriginal to whom it commends itself as a very hardy crop calling for little outlay or trouble. But the case is different with the inhabitants of the plains who do not consume it unmixed with rice. *Kodon* is grown entirely for home-consumption. In 1906-07 the area covered by *kodon-kutki* was 3,48,363 acres or 20 per cent of the gross cropped area. In 1963-64 the area occupied amounted to 4,76,335 acres or 14.5 per cent of the total cropped area. It is sown both in black and gravelly soil In black soil, it is grown in rotation with wheat and when sown in *bhata* requires resting fallows. *Arhar*, *til* and occasionally *patwa* are sown with *kodon*. When *arhar* and *kodon* are grown together, the seeds are sown broadcast. In *matasi* either *kodon* or paddy is sown and not *kutki*. Three varieties of *kodon* are locally distinguished according to the time they take to ripen-*haruna* or *lusru* the early variety, *manzoli* or *lendra* the middling and *mui* or *garhun* the late. *Haruna* is grown on highlands (*bhata*) and ripens in October. The two other varieties are grown on heavy black soil (*kanhar*) and ripen in December and January, respectively. The land is ploughed in June when the rains set in and the seed in sown broadcast. The field is then ploughed over again. As soon as the plants grow four or five inches high, the field is harrowed with *datari*, by which the weeds are all destroyed. *Kutki* is grown on high lands. Two varieties are locally known, *bhadai* and *sitahi*. The former is sown in June and is reaped in August or the Hindu month Bhadon whence it derives its name *bhadai*. The latter is sown in the month of August and ripens in December or the cold season from which it takes its name, the term *sit* meaning cold. *Sitahi* is the more productive of the two varieties. The chief

injury to which *kodon* is liable is from a small parasite weed called *agia*. Grass-hoppers also cause damage at times.

Urad, mung and moth

These crops together constitute an important group of pulse crops of the District. They were responsible for 2,22,230 acres or 7 per cent of the total cropped area in 1963-64. In 1906-07 these crops covered 1,87,583 acres or 11 per cent of the gross cropped area. They are mainly raised as *utera*. The seed is scattered in the standing paddy between 15 and 30 days before paddy crop is out. *Urad* and *mung* are sown when there is one or two inches of water in the field. The second crop is harvested during February. They are sometimes grown as single crop also. As amongst these pulses, *urad* is more important, commanding about nine-tenths of the acreage.

Lakh

Lakh which was grown only in 41,930 acres in 1906-07 or 2.4 per cent of the total cropped area, covered 5,13,018 acres in 1963-64 or 16 per cent of the gross cropped area of that year. The reason for the rapidity with which this crop has extended its frontiers of cultivation lies in the fact that it yields more than *urad* or *mung*. It is also said to be more resistant to adverse climatic conditions. It is also fed to animals. It is raised largely as *utera* crop.

Linseed

Linseed is the most important oilseed crop grown in the District. The area under this crop in 1906-07 was 1,21,946 acres or seven per cent of the gross cropped area. It accounted for 3,29,430 acres, i.e., ten per cent of the gross cropped area during the year 1964-65. A large part of the crop is taken as *utera*. But a good deal of unembanked land is also annually cropped. Linseed has not only maintained its position but has improved upon it in recent years.

Though admittedly a most precarious crop it is one of the most remunerative, chiefly because it is immune from damage by wild animals. The cost of growing is less than that of wheat as fewer ploughings are given and less seed is required. It is sown from the middle of September to the middle of October, i.e., earlier than wheat. Very rarely it is sown mixed with wheat or gram. Linseed is sometimes attacked by an insect *bhong* in cloudy weather. Linseed is also liable to damage by rust. The yield of *utera* linseed is less.

Tur

Tur was grown in 84,243 acres or 2.5 per cent of the total cropped area in 1964-65. It is also called *rahar* or *arhar* and is usually sown alongwith *kodon*. This is sown in June or July and reaped in December or March according as it is of the *harhuna* (early) or *mai* (late) variety.

Til

In 1906-07 an area of 20,260 acres or one per cent of the gross cropped area was covered by *til*. The *til* acreage was barely 5,104 in 1964-65. There are two varieties of *til*, the black and white. White *til* is an autumn crop sown at the break of monsoon and cut at the beginning of November while black *til* is sown in September and cut in January. The *til* crop is grown on all soils. When it is sown in black soil, it is mixed with *kodon*, *arhar*, and *patwa*. The common practice is to sow it in *bhata* in rotation with *kodon* and a fallow. When *til* is grown alone the soil is generally ploughed twice. Five to seven lbs. of seed is required to cover an acre.

Wheat

What paddy is to *kharif*, wheat is to *rabi* as the leading cereal crop, though in comparison to paddy, the area commanded by wheat is much less. In 1906-07, the area under wheat was 2,07,665 acres or 12 per cent of the gross cropped area. In 1964-65, wheat had 1,41,269 acres which was equivalent to four per cent of the total area sown in that year. Wheat cultivation requires considerable labour and care. Wheat is most commonly sown as a spring crop. It is the main crop of the high grade black soil land (*kanhar*) of the plain portion of the District. The fields for *rabi* crops are called *bharri*. Fields meant for sowing wheat are ploughed twice or thrice during October or November and the seed is drilled with the help of *kudi* plough at the rate of 100 lbs. per acre. It is at times sown as second crop after harvest of first crop of paddy provided there is enough moisture to allow ploughing. Wheat is taken as a pure crop.

Two varieties of wheat, viz., *pissi* and *kathia* are sown. *Pissi* ripens earlier than *kathia*, the former being reaped in February and the latter in March. There are two kinds of *pissi*, *khairi* or reddish and *safed* or whitish. Both the varieties are bearded. The beard of wheat is called *sungh*. *Kathia* is more widely grown than *pissi*. With a view to protecting wheat cultivation from the ravages of rust Hy-65, a rust-resistant variety of wheat has been introduced by the Agriculture Department.

Gram

Gram covered an area or 26,573 acres or 1.5 per cent of the gross cropped area in 1906-07. The respective figures for the year 1964-65 were 1,10,926 acres and 3.3 per cent. It is rarely sown as *utera*. *Bota* is the usual method, in which land is prepared in the same way as for wheat and the seed is sown at the same time as wheat,but gram ripens a little earlier of the two. It is generally sown both by broadcast and in lines. Gram is sometimes sown with linseed or wheat but a favourite mixture is gram and castor, ten *kathas* of gram being mixed with one *katha* of castor. The varieties sown are *khairi* and *gulabi*. The locally named *gulabi* variety is D-8, improved variety introduced by the Agriculture Department. The crop is liable to damage from an insect called *bhong*, the gram-pod-borer, when the cloudy weather sets in.

Masur

The area occupied by *masur* in 1906-07 was 17,681 acres or one per cent of the total cropped area. *Masur* covered 16,982 acres in 1963-64, i.e., 0.5 per cent of the total cropped area of the year. It is sown and reaped at the same time as gram. Cloudy weather always produces a plague of caterpillars which is detrimental to the crop.

Sugarcane

The cultivation of sugarcane had become insignificant by last Settlement. Various reasons are assigned for the decrease but the chief cause is that *gur* and sugar could be imported. Sugarcane was planted so long as its products could not otherwise be obtained. In 1906-07 sugarcane occupied not more than 327 acres and with 3,720 acres in 1964-65 its cultivation is still unimportant. Much of the area is sown in Kawardha Tahsil where it is grown as an unirrigated crop. It is also sown just below the bank of a tank to receive the benefit of the seepage of the tank. Tank also provides irrigation. *Kanhar* land is ploughed six or eight times. The sets of sugarcane are sown by a special type of heavy drilling plough called *bawan* during the months of January and February. An inferior type of sugarcane, *kuslar* was grown in the District. Now it has been completely replaced by C.O.312, an improved variety of cane. The output of *gur* obtained from unirrigated crop is 13 mds. per acre, while from irrigated crop it is 35 mds. per acre.

Condiments and Spices

This group of crops accounted for 24,277 acres during 1964-65, though the average for the quinquennium ending 1963-64 was much higher, i.e., 30,773 acres. The principal crop is chillies which covered 7,735 acres in 1964-65.

Fruits and Vegetables

These crops together accounted for 28.194 acres in 1963-64. Fruit crops commanded 14,509 acres while vegetable crops claimed the rest, i.e., 13.685 acres. Chillies, tomatoes and brinjals are grown both as irrigated and unirrigated crops. Cultivation of yams and vegetables is carried on in the sandy beds of rivers or in *pal-kachhar* or silt deposits. *Pal-kachhar* occurring on the banks of the Seonath and the Tandula rivers is mostly used for growing vegetables in unirrigated condition. The Marars practise market-gardening to the best advantage but now other cultivators are also taking up vegetable cultivation.

Mangoes, guavas and custard apples form the principal fruit trees of old gardens. Now, orange, *mosambi* and grafted mangoes are finding place in almost all fruit gardens which are as a rule well-maintained. The area under papaya and plantain is also expanding due to keen demand from Bhilai township.

Garden crops are generally sown in *baris* which are irrigated from shallow wells by means of lever lift (*tenra*) or a leather bucket (*mote*). These arduous methods of lifting water are yielding place to the Persian wheel and electric/diesel pumps.

Minor Crops

Tobacco was sown in an area of 1,905 acres in 1906-07 and in 105 acres in 1964-65. *Madwa* is a small millet grown in *kachhar* and black soil. It covered an area of 1,051 acres in 1906-07 and 1,223 acres in 1963-64. Maize occupied 2,047 acres in 1906-07 and 5,413 acres in 1964-65. It is grown in small *baris* (orchards) around the *basti*. It is sown broadcast in June and ripens in September or October. Cotton is not very much in favour with people, its acreage being only 5,485 acres in 1906-07. The acreage in 1964-65 was barely 26 acres. As regards other members of fibre-group, *ambari* had 158 acres and sunn had 1,002 acres. The leaves of *ambari* are eaten as a vegetable.

Agricultural Implements

A statement appearing in Appendix-A shows the number of the principal agricultural machinery and implements used in Durg District as well as in the various tahsils of the District.

Deshi plough, locally called *nagar* is the universal and basic implement of the farmers which is indispensable for preparing the field. It is a country-made wooden plough, simple in construction. It is used all the year round, both in *kharif* and *rabi* seasons as well as for *biasi* operations. It consists of a wooden beam connected with wooden bottom, having steel share at the point. It is drawn by a pair of bullocks. It loosens the soil and eradicates the weeds. Preparation of seed-bed for all crops is done by this implement. It penetrates upto 4 inches in depth in the soil.

Kopar is used for breaking the clods arising after ploughing to make a compact seed-bed, levelling the ground after paddy has been sown as well as, for green manuring the fields prepared for the transplantation of paddy. It is a straight wooden plank about six inches in width and six feet in length fitted with a beam, pulled by one pair of bullocks. The capacity of its working is five acres per day.

Sometimes, wooden pegs of about eight inches length are fixed to the body of *kopar* described above each at a distance of one foot; when it is called *datari*. There are about six to eight such types in all, and used as spike tooth harrow for pulverising the soil and thinning the plants in the fields of crops like *kodon*. It is used 1½ months after the crop has been sown. This covers about five acres of land per day.

Kudi is a seed-drill implement. It is similar to the ordinary country plough with a little modification. A hole is bored in the bottom part of the plough and it is fitted with a hollow iron tube on which is mounted a bowl to receive seed. Only a single line is drilled at a time. The seed is placed at a depth of four inches below the surface-soil. One acre of land can be covered in a day.

Bakhar (blade-harrow) is used for eradicating weeds,and shallow cultivation. It gives good seed-bed when worked after ploughing. It is comparatively more extensively used in Dongargarh side.

Tenra is used to lift a bucketful of water at a time from well or nullah. It consists of a long beam fitted at lower part with a fixed pole to afford facility to rotate.

Some improved implements, viz., iron ploughs, ridgers, winnowers and seed-drills have been introduced by the Agriculture Department, but they have yet to make their impact felt, as they are being used only by a small fraction of the cultivators, viz., three to ten per cent only.

Complete mechanization is not possible in view of the small size of holdings, rainfall, and climatic conditions and inadequate transport facilities in rural areas. Mechanization which can be dovetailed with bullock-power would be a desirable proposition. However, in the opinion of some prominent cultivators partial mechanization would be feasible provided certain essential conditions are fulfilled, viz., compact holdings of 200 acres, tractor-service organisation, availability of spare parts and training facilities in mechanical operations for desirous cultivators.

Seed

The farmers fully realise the importance of good quality seed and seedlings. They have particularly become conscious of this since the inception of the Grow More Food Campaign. Now adequate arrangements exist in the District to multiply and distribute the seeds of recommended varieties of paddy, the principal crop of the District. Nucleus seeds of the recommended varieties are tested at the Rice Research Station at Labhandi (Raipur) and are made available to the Government Seed Multiplication Farms of the District. These farms produce processed quality foundation seed which in turn is made available to the registered seed growers, dotted all over the District. This agency has been brought into being for making available improved seeds with assured purity on a wider scale. These are selected progressive cultivators called A class seed growers. The seed obtained from these growers called A-seed or Primary seed is further multiplied by B class or Secondary seed growers, and the seed obtained from them is then distributed for general cultivation. The A and B class seed growers agree to multiply the seed of improved strains on their own land under

the supervision and guidance of Agricultural Extension staff, who attend to the rogueing of crops, inspect seed at sowing, harvesting, threshing, bagging and storage, so as to maintain a high level of purity of the seed. The seed growers agree to sell back the seed to the Department and as an inducement to the growers to multiply seed of high purity they are offered premium on the sale price of seed sold to the Department. Only seed of high purity and viability is procured from these growers, and for this purpose the Agricultural staff thoroughly tests the seed before buying the same.

As a result of Rice Research Scheme which was in operation at Raipur from 1st September, 1932, to 31st March, 1944, with the aim of obtaining higher yielding varieties of rice, certain improved strains were evolved and propagated in the District as already alluded to.

As the result of a scheme sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1943 for the extension of area under improved varieties of paddy the area occupied by improved strains expanded.

Further breeding work brought forth the strain Safri-17. It matures within 152 days. It has replaced Cross-4 (Budhiabako x Luchai).

The introduction of exotic paddy strains marks a revolution in paddy culture of the District. The strain Taichung Native—I was imported from Taiwan to Chhattisgarh to help retain its proverbial role of the rice bowl of the State. It may be worth-while to note some salient features of this epoch-making event.

Taichung Native—I is a most widely adaptive, non-lodging, stiff-strawed and high-yielding variety which is resistant to most Indian races of paddy blast but is susceptible to leaf-blight disease. It gives an average out-turn of 50 mds. per acre which with judicious use of fertilizers can be stepped up to 60--70 mds. The stems are sturdy and the plants attain a maximum height of three feet. The crop responds to heavy doses of fertilizers but does not lodge. Tillering is profuse. The grain is heavy and white in colour, It is an early variety ready within 120 days. It was introduced in the year 1967.

As regards wheat, Hy-65 is a favourite with the cultivators on account of its rust-resistant quality. Another improved variety of wheat is Pb. C—591. This is a late maturing variety having amber coloured grain. It gives heavy yields under irrigated conditions. Ranjit, Deccan and Ganga-101 are strains of hybrid maize. A.K. 12-24 is recommended as an improved variety of groundnut.

Manures and Fertilizers

For raising the fertility of soils, the methods adopted can be classified

under two heads, viz., 1—cultural, and 2—manurial. Usual tillage operations given by the cultivators are to plough the fields just after the harvest of the previous crop depending on availability of moisture and time. If there are showers in winter, there is a general tendency among the cultivators to improve the fertility by ploughing land. In the absence of rains, the cultivators become anxious to till their lands at first available opportunity. Iron ploughs like Meston and Care ploughs are also in use for tillage operation.

There is no rotation followed in paddy. The leguminous crops which are raised as a second crop in *utera* add to soil fertility. The cultivator is keen to repair paddy bunds and construct new bunds, so that he may be able to raise crop successfully. The Agriculture Department has introduced contour-bunding as a soil-conservation method.

The tank silt (*laddi*) and weather-beaten soils are applied to increase the fertility. Green manuring is also practised to raise the fertility. At places the land is allowed to remain fallow for a year or so to help to regain fertility in its natural course. But this practice is now disappearing on account of profitability of cultivation and improved farming practices.

The cultivators usually apply farm-yard-manure just after first shower of rains. Scientific methods of making compost are also being advocated. The compost in rural areas is prepared out of straw, refuse and cowdung. It is only this manure, which is available in general, The urine-earth obtained from cattle sheds is also used as manure. The ideal method of composting is being advocated by the Department, The Municipalities of Durg, Rajnandgaon, and Dongargarh maintain compost depots, where compost is prepared out of night-soil and town-refuse. In the beginning, the cultivators residing round about the towns, did not like to handle this compost but gradually their resistance lost force and they took up its use.

Chemical fertilizers both nitrogenous and phosphatic are now in great use in the District. They were introduced in the District in 1947-48. Their use has continuously expanded as the figures given below will amply show :—

(In Tons)

Year	Nitrogenous Fertilizers	Phosphatic Fertilizers
1961-62	2,267	227
1962-63	4,500	300
1963-64	5,828	515
1964-65	6,840	696
1965-66	9,167	3,335
1966-67	8,358	2,065
1967-68	10,066	2,478
1968-69	18,947	5,200
1969-70	22,344	9,087

Cowdung is used as manure and fuel both but the cultivators are being advised to grow fuel trees to substitute the use of cowdung cake as fuel.

Pests and Diseases

A large number of insects and diseases damage the agricultural crops in various stages of growth. As Durg is an important paddy growing district, paddy pests have been dealt with at some length.

The distribution of pests and the magnitude of the damage caused by them depend upon environmental and climatic factors. Under favourable conditions, a minor pest in a certain region may become a serious pest in the same region or in another region. The distribution of paddy-pests is facilitated by the vast contiguous areas under paddy cultivation. Further, many varieties of paddy, which come to maturity on different dates when grown simultaneously in a region, afford continuous food supply and shelter for the uninterrupted breeding and dispersal of pests. These pests have also alternate hosts in some graminaceous plants on which they either overwinter or continue breeding. The more important pests of paddy are mentioned below :—

Paddy stem borer (*Schoenobius incertulas* Wlk.[1]) known locally as *sokhi* is reported to inflict a loss from 3 to 95 per cent of the crop. The pest is prevalent from March to November and is particularly active in areas under double-cropping. This is a serious pest. The attack starts usually in the late planted monsoon crop, which gets so seriously affected that cultivators are often reluctant to grow a summer crop.

The moths are straw-coloured with forewings, yellow and having one black dot on each side. Caterpillars are pale yellowish white and smooth. They bore into stem, with the result that the central shoot withers and dead hearts are produced. The pest is most active during September and October in flowering stage.

Rice grass hopper (*Hieroglyphus banian* F.) or *phapha* is a major pest and causes on an average 20 per cent loss. Adults are yellowish green in colour with the hind tibia coloured blue. Two to three black streaks are present on prothorax. Both nymphs and adults feed on leaves, which appear partly eaten. In cases of severe infestation, plants may entirely be eaten up or reduced to mere mid-ribs and stalks. The adults are sturdy fliers. The active period of this pest lasts from August to December.

Rice gundhy bug (or *gandhi kida*) (*Leptocorisa acuta* Thun., *Lo. varicornis* Fabr.) The two species of rice bugs cause 10 to 40 per cent loss to the crop. Both nymphs and adults suck the juice from developing grains by means of their

1 Rice in India, p. 74.

proboscis. Grains are attacked at the milk stage while mature grains are immune. Infestation by bugs is characterized by the presence of some empty or ill-formed grains in a panicle. Bugs are also known to suck the sap from the branches and rachii of ear and cause completely chaffy grains on some rachii. A hole is left on the grain where the bug punctures it around which a brownish spot develops. The bugs are phototropic. Nymphs on hatching suck the developing grains and fall into the water when disturbed. Large swarms of bugs fly from one field to another usually at night. They emit a nauseous odour indicating the presence of the pest in a field even from a distance. The pest remains most active from second week of August to second week of November.

Rice case worm (*Nymphula depunctalis* Gn.) or *banki* in local parlance is common in low-lying rice fields, where water remains stagnant. Moths are delicate and white with pale, brown and black markings and measures. Full grown caterpillars are greenish white. In the nursery leaves are eaten up by the larvae. Severe infestation in the field crop presents a frayed appearance. The larvae feed on the epidermis of leaves and lead a semi-aquatic life. They cut the leaves and roll to form tubular cases which are often seen afloat on water or attached to stems at or above the water level. The larvae remain inside the cases and pupate. The moths are phototropic. Considerable damage is caused in cases of severe infestation. Deprived of substance and proper support the ears do not obtain full size and the seed is small and stunted. The popular belief about *banki* is that it does not affect the crop if the field is well-manured but it is most injurious to the crop sown by the *loi* method.

Rice hispa (*Hispa armigera* Ol.) is a major pest. Beetles are dark blue or blackish in colour covered with spines all over the wings. Grubs are leaf miner and remain within the leaf tissue feeding and creating patches on leaves which ultimately turn white and dry up. Adult is also a leaf feeder and starts feeding on leaves in characteristic parallel white lines. The infested crop becomes stunted and leaf tips dry up. There are three to four generations in a year.

Rice gall fly (*Pachydiplosis oryzae*, W.M. Mani) and armyworm or swarming caterpillar (*Spodoptera mauritia* Boisd.) locally understood as *katua* or *illi* are sporadic pests. Tillers infested by gall fly show long, hollow tubular galls called silver shoots resulting in the death of tillers. After hatching the grub enters the stem at the base. As a result of the irritation caused by the feeding grub, the tiller turns into a silver shoot. The entire life-cycle is spent within a single tiller. Depending upon weather conditions the peak of infestation fluctuates between the end of August to the end of November.

The swarming caterpillars nibble at leaves and in case of severe infestation, entire seed-beds are destroyed, or the crop damaged to such an extent that the field appears as if it has been grazed by cattle. The larvae feed voraciously

on the leaves, mainly during nights, and hide in the crevices of the soil during the day. They migrate from one field to another during nights.

The green locust *phapha* (*Hieroglyphus furcifer*) and its bigger compeer the red locust *tirri phapha* (*Cirphis unipunctata*) are the greatest enemies to young paddy, their method of operation being to nip off the young shoots which then fail to flower and seed. These two insects disappear when heavy rain falls, being carried away by the water which flows from field to field.

The rice crop suffers from a number of plant diseases, such as, the blast, *Helminthosporiose*, foot-rot, stem-rot, etc., of which blast is the most widespread and destructive. These diseases are caused by fungi.

In case of blast (*Piricularia oryzae* Cav.) spindle shaped spots with brown margins and grey centres are formed on the leaves. Many spots coalesce causing the drying up of the leaves. The symptoms are apparent in the transplanted crop.

The seeds infected by brown spot or sesame leaf spot (*Helminthosporium oryzae* van Breda) show dark brown discolouration on the husk. In case the attack occurs in June seedlings die before emergence. Brown rectangular lesions are produced on the leaves of the surviving seedlings. In the subsequent stage leaf spots are produced as in the case of seedlings. Irregular brown spots are also produced on the leaf sheath and on the stem. Dark brown discolouration is formed on the glumes. Badly affected earheads become chaffy.

In case of appearance of foot-rot (*Fusarium moniliforme* Sheld) the diseased seedlings become elongated, turn pale and finally dry up. The affected plants produce aerial roots from the nodes and their leaves dry up one after the other below and finally droop.

When attacked by stem rot (*Sclerotium oryzae* Catt) the basal portions of the affected plant become soft, rotten, collapse and wilt. On many plants these small black round bodies (Sclerotia) are noticed. The disease usually occurs in patches.

Growing resistant varieties and evolving an economic spray schedule directly in areas of severe outbreak are the recent and effective answers to control the diseases.

The cultivators have no traditional remedies to ward off the damaging effects of pests and diseases. They regard them as a matter of natural occurrence and remain passive witnesses to their withering crops. Once there was a common practice of sprinkling water from a tank situated in Gheori village near Bemetara on *maho* infested fields. This was supposed to afford protection against this pest. But this is fast disappearing.

Scientific plant protection measure are of recent origin in the District. But it has been seen that the cultivator does not avail himself of this facility till the attack is in a fairly advanced stage and then it is often too late. The advantages of prophylactic plant protection measures are realised by very few cultivators. However, the plant protection programme is making a headway in the District.

Co-operative Farming

In recent years Government has adopted the policy of promoting co-operative farming in the State. Not only the individual farming assets and experience of the member-agriculturists are pooled thereby, but Government assistance in the form of share capital contribution, managerial subsidy, godown loan, short-term loan, etc., also become available to such co-operative bodies.

There were 20 co-operative farming societies in the District on 30th June 1965. Out of these 20 societies, 14 societies were classified as joint farming societies and 6 as collective farming societies. The first joint farming society was established at Tirga on 19th December. 1959. Three societies were formed at Nikum, Achhoti and Bharda in 1961. Six societies came into existence at Dhaba, Dhaur, Chirpoti, Matwari, Suregaon and Bhothali, during the next year. Further, four societies were organised at Damoda, Nandori, Thanod and Ghupsidih during 1963. The last two societies have gone into liquidation. In 1968, the number of joint farming societies had risen to 12.

The six collective farming societies are located at Bhawarmarra, Gangolidih, Mangaltari, Chikhalkasa, Lalootola and Bargaon. While the first named society was organised in 1961, the others were formed in 1964.

The combined membership of these societies as on 30th June, 1965, was 365 while the paid-up capital amounted to Rs. 10.48 lakhs. The societies commanded a total area of 5,209 acres out of which 4.340 acres are enjoying irrigation facilities. Out of the area, 481 acres were newly brought under plough. Paddy is the principal crop, though wheat, gram, etc., are also grown. The agricultural produce of the societies was valued at Rs. 6.91 lakhs during 1964-65. However, the profit and loss account showed a cumulative loss of Rs. 65,500 on 20th June, 1965.

Another form of the extension of the principle of co-operation to agriculture is represented by the establishment of co-operative better farming societies. The first society was registered on 30th May, 1958. Their numbe had risen to 19 by the end of June, 1965. Largest number of these societies, viz., 13 was located in Durg Tahsil. Bemetara and Rajnandgaon Tahsils had two each while Khairagarh and Dongargaon had one each. These societies extend loans both medium and short-term for financing various activities connected with agriculture. During the year 1964-65, the societies advanced medium term loans

amounting to Rs. 2,900 for sinking and repair of wells, Rs. 3,240 for purchase of cattle and Rs. 350 for minor improvement in land. During the same period short-term loans aggregated Rs. 2,19,570 for seasonal agricultural operations including purchase of seeds, and fertilizers were also distributed.

District Agricultural Office

This office was established in the District in 1935. It was meant to project the activities of the Agriculture Department at the District level and to suggest methods af improved agriculture and to provide the wherewithal for the same to the agriculturists. Since the inception of the Five Year Plans, activities of Agriculture Department have been intensified and strengthened.

The activities of the Agriculture Department can be divided into two parts, viz., (I) Aided schemes under which financial help in the form of loan and subsidy is offered to the cultivators, and (II) Unaided schemes under which the cultivators are encouraged to pool up their own resources for better farming under the assistance and guidance of the Department. Financial aid is extended for such schemes as distribution of improved seed, chemical fertilizer, green manure improved implements, horticulture development, plant protection, crop competition, land improvement, digging and boring of wells, etc. The second category includes schemes relating to advocacy of ideal composting, green manuring, urine-earth conservation, summer ploughing, judicious rotation, soil conservation and better cropping practices in general.

The Advisory Boards at the District and Block levels are the agencies which render help in carrying agricultural science to the farmers' fields. To bring the results home to the cultivators. practical demonstrations are organised on Government farms and Government plots. There is one Government Demonstration Plot in the District at Bhavarwara. It was set up in the year 1948 and is spread over an area of 50 43 acres out of which 45.90 acres are under cultivation. These are also held on the plots offered by agriculturists.

Seed Farms

The utility of conducting experiments and demonstrating those of proved practical application has long been realised. The result of this realisation was the Government Seed and Demonstration Farm, Durg, which was established as far back as 1917-18. It is spread over an area of 143 acres. It continues to serve the useful purpose of (i) conducting experiments and passing on the results to the farmers through Extension staff, (ii) multiplication and distribution of improved varieties of seeds recommended for the region and, (iii) demonstrating useful agricultural and horticultural practices to the cultivators.

One Farm could not meet the entire requirements of improved seed of the District. It was felt that shortage of improved seeds is retarding the progress

of the programmes of agricultural development. It was, therefore, decided to set up more seed-multiplication farms in the District. Some essential details are shown in the Table below:—

Location of Government Seed-Multiplication Farm	Tahsil	Year of Establishment	Area (Acres)
1. Rajnandgaon	Rajnandgaon	1958-59	145
2. Mohgaon	Bemetara	1961-62	183
3. Sheopuri	Khairagarh	1961-62	102
4. Ghotia	Kawardha	1962-63	112

Besides, they also demonstrate the improved techniques of farming. Farmers' Day is celebrated every year at the Durg Farm to acquaint the cultivators with such agricultural practices which may hasten the farm revolution. Holding of *kisan melas* (farmers' fairs) in the Development Blocks is a regular feature. Simple demonstration trials under the auspices of the Rice Research Officer, Raipur, are also arranged.

Intensive Agricultural Area Programme

The widening chasm between demand and supply of food in the country underlined the imperative need for adopting an integrated approach towards the problem of increasing agricultural production at a rapid pace. Experience brought to light the fact that a faster rate of growth in farm production is within the realm of practicability provided the essential farm inputs are made available to the cultivators and proper incentives are created for achieving higher levels of production.

Hence the Intensive Agricultural Area Programme was started in the District with the sole object of intensifying the production of paddy by adopting improved agricultural practices and popularising the use of improved seeds, implements, fertilizers and plant protection measures.

During the third year of the Programme the magical high yielding paddy variety Taichung Native-I was introduced. The scope of the Programme was widened to include crops like maize, wheat and groundnut. As a result of the Programme 20 per cent increase in paddy yields has been achieved, thereby augmenting the annual income of the farmers by Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per year. The Programme covers 22 Development Blocks of the District.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The most distinguishing characteristic of the livestock economy of District

is the second largest number of animals that it contains (the first rank being held by Raipur District amongst all the districts of Madhya Pradesh, and their emaciated condition, short-statured. ill-nourished and poor in milch and draught power. The backward state of cultivation of the District may be partly attributed to the want of a sufficient number of strong cattle. Moreover, the peasant of Chhattisgarh delights in keeping a large surplus of half-starved animals. It costs almost nothing to keep them while their dung has always a fuel value in a District in which firewood is so scarce.

As noted, the District has the second largest number of livestock, i.e., 18,95,021 according to the livestock enumeration of 1961 showing an increase of 17 per cent over figures of 1956. The District also contains the second largest number of cattle. This number in 1961 was 13,77,818 registering an increase of 16 per cent over the number of 1956. During the five year period 1951-56 there was actually a decrease of seven per cent. The Chhattisgarhi bullock is the smallest and the weakest in the State, always in bad condition and consequently incapable of hard work on the field or the road. Bullocks of a better type are imported from out-side.

But cattle in Chhattisgarh do not receive due attention and as a consequence even the good imported animals tend to degenerate.

Cows are kept for breeding as well as for milk; they are usually milked once in the morning. The yield is so poor that it may not be reckoned at all.

Buffaloes

The District contains the third largest number of buffaloes in the State. The number enumerated at the Census of 1961 was 2,64,482. They decreased by four per cent during the quinquennium 1951-56 and increased by 19 per cent during the decade 1951-61. Buffaloes are mostly imported from Sagar, Damoh, Mandla and Rewa. The trade is carried on by Basdewas. Buffaloes are usually found with the more prosperous cultivators. Before the coming of the railways they were used for carting the surplus produce to the big markets. They are now employed for breaking the heavy black soil clods prior to the sowing of wheat or other heavy *rabi* crops, for transplantation, for carting grain and fetching timber and thatching grass from the jungle. Buffaloes are castrated like the bullocks, when they attain the age of four years. The buffaloes are called *paria* when they are calves, *bagar* when they are heifers and *bhains* when they have had a calf.

Sheep and Goat

In the Census of 1961[1], sheep numbered 51,199 and goats 1,89,658, account-

1 Ninth Quinquennial Livestock Census of Madhya Pradesh for the year 1961, Vol. II, p. 249.

ing for about 2.7 and 10 per cent of the total livestock numbers of the District in that year. During the five years 1951-56 sheep decreased by 10 per cent while goats increased by 67 per cent. The subsequent quinquennium showed increase in case of goats, i.e., by 21 per cent while sheep increased by 20 per cent. The fact is that these animals are not important in the economy of the District.

Goats are mainly kept for food while the shepherds make rough blankets from sheep's wool. Shearing of wool is done twice in a year and the yield is about a kilogram per animal. There is no recognized breed of sheep or goat. Now a days special development schemes to improve the breed of sheep and goats have been taken up in some of the Blocks. As regards sheep the local breed is proposed to be upgraded by crossing it with Madya breed. They are medium in size, black in colour with patches. However, the wool is rough. Crossing with Jamunapari bucks has been prescribed for upgrading goats.

Cattle in Relation to Cropped Area

The number of main categories of cattle and buffaloes per thousand acres of cropped area in the Census years 1956 and 1961 is portrayed in the Table below:—

Categories	Per 1,000 Acres of Net Cropped Area (1956)	Per 1,000 Acres of Total Cropped Area (1961)
1. Bulls and bullocks over 3 years for work	160	134
2. Other bulls and bullocks	3	2
3. Cows	151	124
4. Young stock (cattle)	158	156
5. Buffalo-bulls and bullocks over 3 years used for work	56	49
6. Other buffaloes	..	—
7. Cow-buffaloes	14	14
8. Young stock	14	16
9. Total bulls and bullocks and male buffaloes over 3 years used for work (Sl. Nos. 1 & 5)	216	183

The number of work cattle per 1,000 acres of cropped area is considerably more than that of work-buffaloes. This is inspite of the fact that on account of the pre-eminence of paddy cultivation where animals have to work in slush and buffaloes have an edge over the bullocks. But this peculiarity also marks certain interesting and vivid contrasts *vis-a-vis* other districts of the State. In 1956 Census, the ratio of work buffaloes to cropped area was sixth highest in Durg amongst all the districts of Madhya Pradesh, while it was seventh in 1961

Census. At the same time it appears that she-buffaloes have not yet acquired the role of the dairy cattle in the District, for in 1961, the position of Durg was almost at the bottom, saved only by Bastar and Raipur. Conversely, it also shows that in other districts bullocks are the mainstay of motive power required in agricultural operations. As a keeper of cows also, in relation to cropped area, position of Durg is very low. However, it may also be noted that cattle are not slaughtered to the same extent as buffaloes due to social, religious and economic factors,

Working Cattle Plough Ratio

The number of bulls and bullocks and male buffaloes over three years of age used for work per 100 ploughs worked out to 223 at the Census of 1956. The same ratio in 1961 Census came to 215. Since two animals are required to yoke one plough, the above ratios indicate excess of work animals in relation to ploughs.

Milk Cows and Buffaloes in Relation to Human Population

The number of milch cows and cow-buffaloes, i.e., cows and cow-buffaloes over three years kept for breeding or milk production per 1,000 human souls worked out to 428 and 475, respectively. But, this is only a numerical ratio. The large number of milch cattle per 1,000 people does not indicate larger availability of milk. As noted, milch power of the Durg cattle is too poor to need any re-iteration.

Fodder and Grazing

Stall feeding is but little practised. The cattle are let loose to forage for themselves. Grass *birs* are generally kept but they are for thatching and not for fodder and most of the cattle are turned out in the early morning to graze under the charge of the village cow-herd locally called *bardia*. They get a fair picking in the cold weather from the paddy stalks and such grasses, viz., *dub*, *kakra*, *kandi*, *badour*, *bhu lapta*, *chichi*, *lahdara*, *sukla*, *surva*, *sava*, *khaddar*, *kolia* and *asara* as may be found on field banks. Some of these grasses, viz., *kekra*, *kandi*, *badour*, *bhu lapta*, *dub* and *sava*, are reported to be rich in nutrition and luxuriant in growth. Most villages have a pasture ground, but in many cases the soil is barren *bhata* on the margin of cultivation on which hardly a blade of grass is to be found after the close of October. The existence of these *bhata* plains is very often stated to be responsible for the miserable condition of the cattle. In the hot weather the cattle fare still worse as paddy straw on which they are generally fed affords but little sustenance. The ploughing season is upon them at the time of their direct distress and then they gorge themselves with unhealthy grass which sprouts on the advent of rains. Cattle may also be sent to Government jungle for the duration of the rainy season till Diwali and are kept in what are called *dalhans* or temporary fences of bamboos or other wood to protect them from wild animals. During the day they are let out to graze and at night driven inside this fencing.

Two fuel and fodder reserves were established at Ruabandha and Jamul as early as 1908-09. The idea was to raise quick growing species of trees suitable for fuel. They are now maintained as fodder farms coveiing 124 and 110 acres, respectively.

Some statistical evidence of the availability of grazing in the District can be had from the following. During the quinquennium 1956-57 to 1960-61 the average grazing area (consisting of culturable waste, permanent pastures and grazing lands and forests open for grazlng) worked out to 10,09,115 acres or 20.8 per cent of the total District area. This gave o.61 acre of grazing land per head of bovine population and 0.53 acre per head of aninal population. While the percentage of grazing area to the total district area is the lowest, the percentage of grazing area per head of bovine or animal population is one of the lowest amongst all the districts of the State. Average area under fodder crops during the same period was 12,263 acres or barely 0.4 per cent of the total cropped area of the period.

Most cultivators give their stock during the hot weather a picking at night, either a few bundles of grass or some paddy straw or better still, the crushed straw (*bhusa*) of *tur*, *urad*, peas, wheat or *tiura*. More attention is naturally paid to the cattle at ploughing and sowing time for a month, during which period they are mostly stalll-fed on paddy straw, etc., a quantity of broken pulses, such as, pea or *tiura* or *tur* not exceeding half a kilo per head being also added. Linseed-cake and gingelly-cake are fed to the cattle. Some resourceful farmers also give to their cattle a quantity of processed cattle feed supplied by cattle feed manufacturers.

Besides the large numbers, the cattle feeding problem is complicated by two factors which pose a challenge of unsurmountable magnitude. The first is the existence of *bhata* plains, where with the commencement of the cold weather, hardly a blade of grass is to be seen. The second is the cultivation of paddy as compared to which other crops are much less important. Paddy straw forms an important item of fodder in the District, but it is of little value as fodder. It has been shown to contain oxalates which are harmful and can only be removed by steeping the straw in water of dilute solution of caustic soda. Paddy straw is out of all comparision inferior to wheat or *jowar* straw for purposes of fodder. If in its grain it is as a source of human food inferior to wheat or *jowar*, in its straw as an article of cattle food, its inferiority is infinitely greater. The District is not a grower of cotton or groundnut and the cattle are deprived of the protein-rich highly nutritive cakes of these crops.

The poverty of cattle food is vividly brought out by the Table below which shows availability of roughage through grazing and agricultural bye-products, and concentrates per day per cattle unit and the approximate weight of the cattle in the various crop-zones of the State.

Feed Available per Cattle-Unit per Day	Rice Zone	Rice-Wheat Zone	Wheat Zone	Wheat-Jowar Zone	Jowar-Cotton Zone	Total Average for the State
1. Roughage:						
(a) Grazing	2.6	4.2	6.4	6.9	6.5	3.9
(b) Agricultural bye-products	3.0	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.7	2.9
Total:	5.6	6.2	8.9	9.9	10.2	6.8
2. Concentrates (in ozs.)	0.87	1.93	2.80	3.58	4.56	2.62
Average weight of cattle (in lbs.)	400	650	700	750	800	....

The farmers are well-aware of the role of concentrate feeding on growth and productivity of their stock but they are unable to feed them just as they are unable to provide milk or balanced food to their children. The establishment of oil, pulse, wheat flour and rice-hulling factories is gradually depriving farmers of the ready and cheap oil-cakes, pulse bye-products, wheat bran and rice bran, which are locally available, in case these commodities are processed in the village.

The misery of the cattle can be alleviated only by pruning the undesirable ones, by making cropping pattern broadbased, by raising fodder crops and nutritious grasses and scientific management of pastures.

Happily, some trends are visible which portend well for the future. As part of fodder development programme nutritious fodder crops, such as, improved *jowar*, napier. para, berseem and G-73, are being propagated by holding demonstrations and making available their seeds and roots to the intending growers. All the Development Blocks of the District have taken up this scheme in their areas and the acreage covered under the scheme was 5,708 acres at the end of Third Plan. For promoting the development of local grasses by replacing with local ones, various inducements are provided under Block and Departmental activities.

It is difficult to ensure adequate supplies of fresh good fodder throughout the year. Therefore, the Department undertook the work of the demonstration of silo-pits, where the grass could be preserved in the form of silage. This process besides minimises the loss of good quality grasses. Preparation of silage is a new technique for the cultivators of the District, but by means of demonstrations, the idea has caught the imagination of the people and silo-pits both *kutcha* and *pucca* are coming up in Blocks and during the five years 1961-62 to 1965-66, a total of 271 silo-pits had been constructed.

Dairy Farming

Preponderance of only non-descript type of cattle had hampered the growth of organised dairy industry on any significant scale. As a result, scarcity of milk has generally been felt. It is mainly the urban areas that pose the problem of regular and adequate milk supply. There the people mainly depend either upon local *gaolies* or professional milk collectors and vendors.

With the emergence of the Bhilal Steel Plant, demand for adequate supply of fresh milk began to be felt keenly. To meet this demand, one dairy was opened in 1956 at Anjory about five miles away from Durg with an initial stock of 70 cows and 55 buffaloes. During the the year 1965-66, the Dairy Farm was converted into a cattle breeding farm with the definite aim of rearing and breeding Sahiwal cows and Murra buffaloes. During 1965-66, the production of milk amounted to 1,16,814 litres, the number of milch animals maintained being 390. No pasteurization arrangements exist at the Dairy Farm. However, a pasteurization plant of 4,000 litres capacity has been installed under the Bhilai Milk Scheme by the Bhilai Steel Plant.

However, the bulk of the milk-supply comes from private milk vendors or dairies. In addition. there are two *goshalas* being maintained at Rajnandgaon and Dongargarh, the former in the name of *pinjrapole* and the latter, viz., Shri Krishna Goshala as a small dairy-cum-breeding unit. In 1965-66, the *pinjrapole* at Rajnandgaon had 283 animals. In the same year the *goshala* at Dongargarh had 254 animals and produced 16,372 litres of milk. It may be mentioned that *goshalas* are charitable institutions for the purpose of rearing, breeding and maintaining cattle supplied by the public or obtained on subsidy basis from the Government. Under the Joint Farming Society, Tirga, a good dairy farm with Hariyana milch stock has been established.

Poultry Farming

According to the Livestock Census 1961, there were 2,97,943 birds out of which fowls numbered 2,92,670. The number of improved fowls was insignificant, i.e., only 8,691. The poultry increased by 24 per cent over the figure of 1956 Census.

Bhilai Steel Plant gave a fillip to the development of poultry industry. Formerly, poultry keeping was not so popular in the District and was confined only to the people belonging to the Muslim community and Scheduled Castes. With the heating of the ovens of the Plant the demand for fowls and eggs also shot up. Moreover, there was gradual awareness among the people regarding the nutritive properties of the eggs which further helped in creating demand for this commodity.

Efforts were soon afoot to expand the industry and improve its efficiency.

The first step in this direction was the introduction of improved germ-plasm. This step alone was calculated to bring about considerable increase in the production of eggs, because whereas the egg-laying capacity of an improved bird is 200-225 per year that of an unimproved bird is merely 50-70.

Australorp, White Leghorn, Rhode Island Red, Turkey, Guinea fowl, B. P. R. and Black Minorca strains have been found to prosper in the District. Yet another step in the direction was taken in 1956 when the State Government brought into being a Poultry Farm at Durg. The Farm supplies improved birds and eggs and day-old chicks to Development Blocks, poultry units and individual poultry farmers. Besides, the Farm imparts practical training in poultry keeping to field workers and co-operative poultry farmers. The Farm has incubation capacity of 13,600 eggs. Statistics for 1965-66 show that there were 2,052 layers during the year and the number of eggs produced amounted to 2.68 lakhs. Average annual egg-production per bird was calculated as 159.5. The number of day-old chicks produced was 77,261. The Farm is spread over an area of 63-64 acres and is headed by a Manager of gazetted rank.

An Intensive Poultry Development Project has been initiated with headquarters at Raipur. Part of Durg District lying within a radius of 25 miles from Raipur has been included under this Project

Measures mentioned below are meant to encourage private poultry breeding:—

1. Subsidy for the establishment of backyard poultry units in Blocks.
2. Subsidy on the distribution of hatching eggs in Blocks.
3. Distribution of improved cockerels on exchange basis.
4. Subsidy for distribution of day-old chicks.
5. Subsidy for brooders.
6. Subsidy for improved poultry houses.
7. Loan for poultry development.

Fisheries

The rivers of the District fall under the Mahanadi system. The most important river is the Seonath and the other rivers meet it as its tributaries. The bed of the river is sandy and free from rocks for the most part of its course in the District. The inland water area is also vast made up of innumerable bodies df small and large ponds and tanks, representing culturable

water area of about 13,000 acres. This excludes the irrigation tanks and reservoirs which are newly coming up as a result of development plans.

All the important fishes of the Mahanadi river system are available in the District, major varieties of which are as under:—

Carps:—(1) *Labeo fimbriatus* (potis), (2) *Labeo calbasu* (kannach), (3) *Labeo pangusia*, (4) *Labeo bata* (bata), (5) *Cirrhina reba* (borai), (6) *Barbus sarana* (kotra).

Cat fishes:—(7) *Clarias magur* (mungri), (8) *Heteropneustes fossilis* (singhi).

Other fishes:—(9) *Ophiocephalus marulius* (saur), (10) *Ophiocephalus amphibius* (bhunda), (11) *Ophicephalus striatus* (khokhsi), and (12) *Ophicephalus punctatus*.

The Fisheries Office was established in the District at Rajnandgaon in 1958-59. Since its inception it has undertaken schemes for organising pisciculture in the District on sound and scientific lines. It has introduced fast growing species of fishes which yield higher incomes to the farmers due to quicker and higher catches. These species are *Catla catla* (catla), *Labeo rohita* (rohu), *Cirrhina mrigala* (mrigala), *Cyprinus carpio* (mirror carp) and *Cyprinus carpio Communis* (common carp). The Fisheries Office is arranging the supply of fish seed of these riverine carps at moderate prices. The number of fish seed supplied to various agencies and individuals engaged in fish culture increased from 28.9 lakhs in 1967-68 to 36 lakhs in 1969-70. For increasing the supplies of fish seed, the method of induced breeding of major carps through the administration of pituitary hormones has been started in the District at Nanja. With the same end in view the Department has established 4 small nurseries at Durg, Balod, Dongargarh and Dhamdha and a fish-nursery consisting of 100 acres is under construction at Khutelabhata. This tiny fry of one inch to two inch size is kept in small nursery ponds where it grows free from all the dangers of being eaten away by the predatory fishes and harmful insects. When it grows to five inches or six inch size it is transferred to bigger tanks, where it grows very fast, about two pounds within a year's time.

Besides the culture of fast-growing economical varieties of fishes, the office has assisted and encouraged the development of fisheries in manifold ways. It has tried to replace the use of indigenous gears by new improved and efficient equipment, viz., durable synthetic twine. It has enouraged the formation of primary fishermen's co-operative societies to solve the problem of extraction of fishes and to improve the socio-economic condition of the fishermen. Such societies are allowed to ply their business in Government tanks on moderate royalty. Loans and subsidies are advanced to them for various fisheries development purposes. By the beginning of 1966, such 14 societies had

been organised. Bhilai Steel Township has evinced considerable interest in pisciculture. *During* 1969-70 two *lakhs* of fish seed were supplied to interested parties of *the Township.*

Special measures have been taken up for spreading this industry in Development Blocks. The scheme of Fisheries Extension in Community Development Blocks is being implemented with the same end in view. It was introduced in Balod Block in the year 1961-62. The object of the scheme, viz., extensive pisciculture through fish farmers, Gram Panchayats and fishermen's co-operative societies in non-departmental tanks, has been well-realized. This is evident from the increasing demand of fish seed which shot up from 36,000 in 1961-62 to 1,55,000 in 1965-66. Under the Applied Nutrition Programme which is operating in Balod, Khairagarh and Patan Blocks, fish is supplied free of charge as a dietary supplement to expectant mothers and children.

There is brisk trade in fish in the District itself and only a fraction of the total catch remains to be supplied to markets outside the District, viz., Calcutta and Rourkela. The important consuming centres within the District are Bhilai, Durg and Rajnandgaon However, it is felt that with increasing fish production sizeable quantities of fish may be available for despatch to outside markets. To overcome this imminent eventuality a cold storage unit with a capacity of 800 cft. has been installed at Supela fish market, Bhilai, where excess supplies could be stored without fear of loss or deterioration. A fish stall has also been set up at the same place.

The District possesses extensive physical resources for fisheries development. The existing ponds and tanks are lying neglected and only partially used. With their restoration, potentialities for fuller development will increase. With increased emphasis on stepping up agricultural production storage works for irrigation are being created which can be used for fishery development as well. It is proposed to establish a riverine fish sanctuary on the river Seonath near village Kotni. Similarly, emphasis has been placed on augmenting supplies of food rich in animal proteins and fish is the ready answer. Naturally, therefore, inland waters are gradually assuming important role in the solution of the twin problems of food and nutrition.

Livestock Diseases

Sufficient grazing and adequate feeding are the two essential conditions for healthy livestock, but they are woefully lacking in the District. A diet of paddy straw is, in itself, sufficient to account for the liability to disease of the cattle; the dampness of the country may also be a potent cause of this, but the paddy straw based feed is sufficient to account for the widespread prevalence of cattle diseases, even ignoring the fact of dampness. The commencement of the rains is the most unhealthy time for the cattle, as being half starved through the weather, they gorge themselves on the rank young grass and cultivating cattle

which are then put to the plough are more liable to succumb to disease than others.

The common cattle diseases are rinderpest (*mata*), haemorrhagic septicaemia (*ghatsarp* or *saunahi*), black quarter (*chhatbhoj*), anthrax (*chhai*) and, foot and mouth (*khurka* or *chhapaka*). Rinderpest, the most fatal of the cattle diseases, in the past commonly broke out once in two or three years. Buffaloes suffer more from it than cattle, especially cow-buffaloes. The disease is of a most highly contagious character. Common grazing facilitated easy spread while the idea of segregation was not looked upon kindly. The animals generally die within a week and if they live to 8 or 10 days, they generally survive. The owners feed them sometime on *kodon*-gruel and give them potash nitre dissolved in water and worship Devi. Diseased animals are also treated with extract of *babul* tree bark, extract of *bel*-fruit and mixture of catechu and chalk. Anthrax appears in different forms which are considered locally as different diseases, such as, *bhaonra*, when the head gets giddy and the animal runs in circles, *phalabi*, when the body is swollen, and *chhai*—gloss anthrax when the blood vessels of the tongue become much congested. Foot and mouth disease is very troublesome in the rains when worms appear in the sores, and also in winter, but it is not usually fatal. The animal is tied up in the miry portion of the tank so that its feet stand in the mud, as the disease more commonly attacks the feet. Haemorrhagic septicaemia (*saunahi*) was common in the District and recurred almost every year. It generally attacks the small calves of buffaloes of two or three years and breaks out in damp weather in about Shrawan (August) from which it derives its name. The disease took the toll of 90 per cent of those affected.

However, with the spread of the modern preventive and curative measures, these indigenous methods of cure are not in vogue to the same extent. The incidence of the cattle diseases has also declined considerably though it has not been possible to stamp them out completely. With a view to combating rinderpest, Rinderpest Eradication Scheme was started in the District in the year 1960, and continued upto 1965. Afterwards it was continued as a follow-up measure. Prophylactic vaccinations with a special vaccine are administered under the Scheme. The Table in the Appendix shows the incidence of the important cattle diseases and inoculations administered during recent years.

The twin measures of control of epizootics to prevent death and decrease in working efficiency of the cattle, and improved feeding will certainly play a pivotal role in establishing a positive agrarian economy. However, the fact of the matter is that in the absence of proper nutritional environment necessary for expression of general potentiality of the upgraded stock, the efforts in the direction of dissemination of improved germ-plasm of better breed of cattle, have failed to yield the desired results and actual improvement in the quality of cattle is not visible.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

In the first decade of this Century there were three veterinary dispensaries one at the headquarters of the District and the others at Bemetara and Balod. The first one came into existence on 1st January, 1906, while the latter two were established in 1910. Two dispensaries were added at *Mohalla and Gandai during 1926.* Four years later, i.e., in *1930,* two more *dispensaries began functioning* at Kawardha and Khairagarh. Nawagarh had its *Dispensary in 1938. These dispensaries (except* Gandai*) have* been upgraded as *hospitals. However, it was only in the Post-Independence period that concerted efforts were made to tackle the pressing problem of livestock improvement. Till the end of the year 1966, nine hospitals, 13* dispensaries and 44 *out-lying* dispensaries were working *in the* District. They are shown in Appendix.

Measures to Improve Quality of Breed

Upgrading the breed of the cattle to improve milking capacity of the cows and motive power of the bullocks is a matter of prime importance.

Since the assumption of industrial outlook by this District many breeds of cattle and buffaloes from outside have been introduced through private agencies. The breeds introduced were Hariyana and Sahiwal in case of cattle and Murrah and Nagpuri in case of buffaloes. The breeding policy adopted in this District by the Government was the grading up of the indigenous cattle in urban areas by crossing the local cows with Sahiwal bulls and in rural areas by crossing them with Malvi bulls. However, this policy underwent a change. In case of cattle Hariyana and Thari bulls have also been adopted to upgrade the local cattle at various *goshalas* and around industrial areas. In the remote rural areas, the policy remains unchanged. As regards buffaloes, Murrah breed has been adopted for upgrading the buffalo stock of the District.

Gosadan

There is no *gosadan* in the District. The old and disabled cattle are sent to the *gosadan* at Sarora in Raipur District.

One Artificial Insemination Centre is working at Rajnandgaon. Established in 1956, it fulfils the imperative need for raising the performance of cattle both for pail and plough and promoting the breeding efficiency. The technique of artificial insemination also does away with the necessity of supplying and maintaining bulls. There are six Key Village Units under this Artificial Insemination Centre. They are at Somni, Parri, Singhola, Jangalpur, Pendri and Tilai. The first two were established in 1956 and the remaining four in 1963. The services rendered

by this Centre with its Units are shown in the following Table :—

Year	Artificial Inseminations Done (No.)	Natural Service Done (No.)	Calvings (No.)	Castrations (No.)
1961 62	696	139	187	354
1962-63	518	191	334	541
1963-64	929	456	339	1,758
1964-65	545	310	480	686
1965-66	870	313	332	951
1966-67	1,032	2,451	1,570	...
1967-68	1,342	1,871	1,464	–
1968-69	1,310	2,419	1,476	..
1969-70	998	1,936	548	..

In addition, five Artificial Insemination Units are also functioning at Khairagarh (1959), Dhamdha (1961), Durg (1962), Dongargaon (1962), and Dongargarh (1963).

One Cattle Breeding Society has been organised at Rajnandgaon which promotes the grading up of local cattle in co-operation with Artificial Insemination Units and Key Village Units under the Artificial Insemination Centre, Rajnandgaon. The Society also promotes cultivation of quality fodder for feeding the cattle. One Cattle Breeding Farm has been established at Anjora by the State Tribal Welfare Department. The Cattle Breeding Farm, Durg, in addition to supplying milk also makes available high-breed bulls for distribution in the District.

With the same object of improving the quality of cattle by upgrading the breed and stamping out cattle diseases Key Village Centres have also been established in the District. They are functioning at Rajnandgaon since 1949, at Chhuria since 1950, at Chhuikhadan since 1953 and at Risama since 1958.

With a view to preventing the ingress of cattle disease, a Quarantine Station has been established at Chirchari, in 1965-66. Similarly, two Check Stations are working at Bodla since 1948 and at Bortalao since 1960.

FORESTRY

A significant area of Durg District is occupied by the forests. They play an important role in the economy of the District. In all, 1,980 sq. miles of area amounting to 34 per cent of the total District area, is covered by them.

Bemetara Tahsil has no forests at all. Details regarding the classification of area and flora and fauna, etc., are given in Chapter One.

Forest Produce

Timber, fire-wood, bamboos and *tendu* leaves are the principal forest produce in the District. Among these teak and *sal* are the more important timber species while *dhawa, saja, karra, bhirra, gunja, lendia, tendu, aonla*, etc., are the important fuel species. Out of these *dhawa, saja, bhirra, aonla* and *gunja* are usually preferred for preparation of charcoal. *Kattha* (catechu) is noteworthy among the minor produce, being produced only in the Balod Range of the South Forest Division. *Mahua* is another important produce mostly consumed locally. Production statistics of the major produce (for the year 1962-63)[1] for the two Forest Divisions are given below:—

Produce	North Forest Division	South Forest Division
Timber Wood	92,000 C ft.	3,68,315 C.ft.
Fire Wood	68,570 "	12,76,410 "
Tendu Leaves	N.A.	1,27,794 Bags
Bamboos	1,43,16,952 Nos.	5,56,669 Nos.

As to the revenues from these forests, the total revenue from the two Divisions in the year referred to above was Rs. 28,84,503. The net annual revenue from the forests was Rs. 40,07,816 in the year 1967-68.

Among the most valuable forest tracts in the District are included south western part of Khairagarh Tahsil with valuable teak and bamboo areas and mid-western part of Kawardha Tahsil with good *sal* forests in the North Division and the ex-zamindari forests of former Dondi Lohara and Panabaras zamindaries of the South Division having better quality miscellaneous and teak forests. Of these the South Division forests of ex-zamindaries are inadequately served with roads and as such Balod Range forests of the same Division fetch better revenue.

Markets

The forest produce obtained from the exploitation of forests is not only supplied for meeting the varied demands of the local population but a major portion is exported to adjoining districts as also to the far-off important consuming centres like Calcutta, Nagpur, Poona, Hyderabad, etc.

Among the different forest produce bamboo is exported to Amlai and Dalmianagar for manufacture of paper while *tendu* leaves are mostly sent to Gondia, Jabalpur, Bombay, Poona, Surat, Bangalore and Hyderabad for *bidi*

1 *Audyogik Vikas Ki Sambhavanayen*, District Durg, p. 7.

making besides local consumption for the same purpose. Calcutta is the main market for sawn teak and charcoal. Fuel finds exit to Nagpur, Bombay, etc., and non-teak species are exported to South Indian markets, while *sal* is consumed mainly for supplying sleepers to Railways.

Most of timber, fuel and bamboos are exploited through contractor's agency. *Tendu* leaves are collected by the Department through appointed agents and sold to previously appointed purchasers as per highest tender.

The available quality of timber cannot be compared with that of tracts like Bastar, but intensive management as envisaged in forest plans may yield quality teak in the long run. As these forests had been worked with the principal objective of obtaining maximum revenue without keeping into view the scientific approach, they were in depleted condition at the time of transfer to the State Government after the abolition of proprietary rights. However, now efforts have been made to improve their condition through various measures like scientific exploitation, protection from fire and controlled grazing, etc., apart from preparation of working plan or scheme.

STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

Assistance extended by Government to the agricultural community is in the form of *taccavi.* It is a system of rural financing under which Government advances loans at a fair rate of interest to owners or occupiers of arable land for relief of distress, purchase of seed and cattle, improvement of land and for any other purpose connected with agricultural objects. Its origin is obscure, but the following extract from the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture shows that the system of *taccavi* has been in existence, in some shape or form, from pre-British days:—

"In normal times, the village moneylender seems to have met the normal needs, but in times of severe drought or widespread calamity, his resources proved unequal to the strain upon them and, long before the British acquired control the rulers of the day were accustomed to grant loans to the cultivators of the soil."

The early British administrators continued this system and in 1793, various Regulations were issued providing for *taccavi* advances to proprietors, farmers, subordinate tenants and *raiyats* for embankments, tanks, water-courses, etc. These were followed by a series of Acts, which, with some modifications, are now represented by the Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883 and the Agriculturists' Loans Act of 1884. These Acts generally followed the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1880, which were endorsed by the Famine Commission of 1898 and 1901. These Commissions emphasized the utility of *taccavi* advance by Government to famine-affected people as "a measure of moral strategy" and "a way of putting heart into the people".

It is against this background of the British Government's policy of famine relief that the importance of the following instructions about *taccavi* will be appreciated:—

Loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are intended primarily to relieve distress or to assist the poorer cultivators in financing their agricultural operations. They are not granted with the intention of replacing the local moneylender or of providing a cheap form of credit for substantial agriculturists. In normal conditions loans under this Act are restricted to cultivators, who are either unable to save sufficient to finance their own cultivation or cannot afford to borrow at the high rates of interest charged by the local moneylenders. In times of stress the object of granting these loans is to give cultivators such help as is essential to keep their cultivation going. In such times it is also permissible to grant small loans to enable needy cultivators to maintain themselves while they are preparing their lands and cultivating them for the next crop.

Loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act are intended to encourage the improvement of agricultural land and need not in principle be restricted either to the poorer cultivators or to times of distress. The extent to which they may be granted will depend on the actual requirements of cultivators as also on the amount available for distribution, the main consideration in advancing such loans being whether the loan will result in an increased productivity and a permanent improvement in the land commensurate with the outlay involved.

It was then not the policy of the British Government to finance agricultural operations on any large scale in normal times. The economic life of the village was left undisturbed.

The result of this policy was that the moneylender continued to play his part in financing agriculture without any serious restrictions. The few restrictions that were imposed by the Central Provinces Land Alienation Act, II of 1916, the Usurious Loans Act, X of 1918, and the Moneylenders Act, XIII of 1934, were intended more to deal with rural indebtedness than with the advancing of money for agriculture. As the Royal Commission on Agriculture has observed, these restrictions affected the village moneylender solely owing to an accident that he combined the financing of agriculture with usurious moneylending, which alone these Acts were designed to control.

During the period of economic depression from 1929 to 1938 agricultural indebtedness increased and the need for reducing it became pressing. The Central Provinces and Berar Debt Conciliation Act was passed in 1933 followed by the Relief of Indebtedness Act in 1939. The first was based largely on the principle of voluntary reduction of debt; the second provided for statutory reduction of debt based on certain general principles laid down in the Act itself.

The administration of these two Acts resulted in shrinkage of the credit of agriculturists. To the extent to which credit facilities were misutilised by the agriculturists, the effect of the enforcement of the Acts was beneficial. At the same time, the agriculturists were deprived of the opportunities for improving the standard of cultivation with the help of privately-borrowed capital.

The occurrence of the Bengal Famine in 1944 underlined the imperative need for increasing food production. The Grow More Food Campaign was intensified and since then, there has been a shift of emphasis from "protective" to "productive" aspect of *taccavi*. The measures advocated for stepping up agricultural production were promoted by the grant of subsidies and/or *taccavi* loans on favourable terms. The Partition of India in 1947 caused further deterioration in respect of food supplies and greater efforts had to be made to increase food production. The result has been that *taccavi* advances have been increasing during the Post-Independence period.

With the passing of the Madhya Pradesh Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, 1950, proprietary rights in *mahals*, estates and alienated lands have been abolished and direct relationship established between the State and the holders of land. This legislative enactment together with sustained efforts to bring down agricultural indebtedness have tended to make private credit shy and has compelled Government to give larger financial assistance to agriculturists. Though steep rise in agricultural prices has decreased the normal credit requirements of the cultivators, but the desire on their part to increase agricultural production through the application of inputs in larger measure has produced the opposite effect. However, *taccavi* advances have shown steady increase.

FAMINES

The bulk of the people of the District derive their livelihood from agricultural pursuits who have to depend upon rain for the success of their crops which unfortunately is an uncertain factor. Naturally, therefore, whenever there is scanty rainfall the famine or scarcity is the inevitable result, Kawardha, Bemetara and Khairagarh areas of the District are more susceptible to famine.

Durg District suffered considerably from famine and scarcity in the past; but unfortunately no detailed records relating to it are available, and only a summary of its history can be given here.

A failure of the crops occurred in 1828-29, and the prices of rice rose to 12 seers to the rupee from a normal rate of anything between 100 and 400 seers. Acute distress necessarily prevailed. In 1834-35 another partial failure of the rice crop occurred, which was aggravated by the depletion of stocks, much grain having been sent towards Jabalpur in the previous year, on account of the scarcity experienced there. Acute distress prevailed and many people were said

to have died of starvation. In 1845 another local famine occurred due to drought and the people were much distressed. The rainfall of Durg was very short both in 1867-68 and 1868-69, amounting only to 23 and 21 inches (584.2 and 533.4 mm.), respectively. Considerable distress was felt in 1869.

In 1877-78 a long break in the rains in September reduced the rice crop by a half, while owing to the absence of cold weather rains the spring crop almost completely failed. The lower classes were in straitened circumstances, but not so such as to require relief. Another short crop was produced by the early cessation of the rains in 1882-83 Again in 1886-87 the September rain was very scanty and unequal, and over most of the District the rice harvest was only about a quarter of an average. The District Council undertook the construction of the Dhamda-Durg road and the Bhilai tank, and some proprietors afforded work to their villagers. In the two following years also the rainfall was unequal and the crops poor.

Between 1891 and 1895, while the bulk of the Province was suffering from the continued untimely rainfall in the winter months, Durg Districs did fairly well. But in 1895-96 the monsoon ceased abruptly in the middle of September and the rice and *kodon* crops were severely injured, exept in the best black soil. Owing to the absence of winter rains the spring crops also gave poor out-turns, and a certain amount of distress was felt by the poorer classes. This season was followed by the famine year of 1896-97, when the rainfall was exceptionally heavy up to the end of August and then ceased abruptly. A single fall of nearly five inches was recorded at Durg in the second week of September, and after this no rain fell until after the end of October. The early monsoon was so heavy that the Seonath was in flood seven times and caused serious damage to the riverside villages. All over the District the people had to cut the embankments of their fields to let out the superfluous water. The result was that the rice crop had no reserve of water to fall back on and rapidly withered during the drought. The out-turn of rice and *kodon* was about 40 per cent of an average crop, and the area under the spring crops was considerably reduced owing to the want of moisture in the soil. A severe famine ensued, the southern part of the District being one of the most affected tracts of Chhattisgarh. Nine working camps were opened by the Public Works Department in the District. New roads were made from Kumhari to Patharia, from Dhamda to Deorbija, Dhamda to Gandai and to Balod. Many proprietors carried out the repairs of old tanks or the construction of new ones, taking Land Improvement loans, which were subsequently converted into Famine loans without interest and with a drawback. All the other relief measures carried out in Raipur were also applied to Durg. The mortality was very heavy during 1897, rising to about 80 per mille while the birth-rate fell to 27. The price of rice rose to 7¼ seers in July and August 1897, being an increase of 140 per cent on the normal rate.

During the next two years the District had fair harvest but the cropped area had fallen considerably owing to the poverty and resourceless condition of the cultivators. But in 1899 the monsoon again completely failed and the rice crop was only nominal. The administration of relief was on a scale hitherto unprecedented, more than 44 per cent of the entire population being at one time in receipt of subsistence from Government. Twenty relief-camps were opened by the Public Works Department. Roads were constructed from Lohara to Dhamtari, from Rajnandgaon to Antagarh, and from Gundaidehi to Arjunda. Irrigation tanks were also built at Sanjari, Sorli, Marouda, Aranda Khapri, Gundardehi, and Arjunda. Large numbers of kitchens were opened, and in the rains two-fifths of the population were receiving cooked food. It rose in the hot weather owing to the outbreak of cholera. There was a great scarcity of water, and in such an event the sources of supply necessarily became polluted and propagated diseases. The infant mortality was also heavy on account of the abnormally high birth-rate of the preceding year. The average price of rice for the year 1900 was 10½ seers.

In the following year the area under the rice crop in the then Durg Tahsil (1,85,000 acres) had fallen by 30 per cent, below that of 1896-97. The centre and north of the Tahsil were in worse condition than the south. Owing to the short sowings and the partial failure of the spring crops from heavy rain in the cold weather, the condition of the people was still a little precarious. In the following year 1901-02, the September rainfall was again very local and capricious, and the rice crop was short. The area covered by spring sowings was limited owing to want of moisture in the soil and the yield was poor owing to the failure of rain in the cold weather. In 1902-03 the season was even worse. Owing to a long break in July and August the important *biasi* or thinning operations could not be carried out, and the monsoon finally failed in October. The out-turn of the rice crop was estimated at only 30 per cent of normal, and the spring crops also did poorly. Regular relief operations were undertaken, and the collections of rent and instalment of loans were suspended, while fresh advances were given out on a liberal scale. After this the District enjoyed two prosperous seasons, but again in 1905-06 the rainfall was scanty in August and September, and the rice and *kodon* both suffered injury. This was followed, with a year's interval, by another bad season in 1907-08, when a long break in July was succeeded by the early cessation of the rains in September, with the result that the rice crop was only about half of the average. The people, however, met the failure of the harvest better than was anticipated, and no regular measures of relief were necessary.

Then came the famine of 1918-19 whose edge was sharpened by the influenza epidemic. The season commenced well and by the end of August, the total amounts of rainfall in Bemetara, Durg and Balod were 49.05; 55.23; and 42.35 inches, respectively. The first half of September was normal and gave 3.25; 9.53; and 8.48 inches at the three tahsil headquarters. The monsoon, thereafter,

receded rapidly and there was practically no rain anywhere in the District from the middle of September to the end of November. Even so, the only *khalsa* area affected was the two jungly groups of the Sanjari Tahsil. But the distress caused by the failure of the *kharif* crop was much intensified by the appalling mortality caused by the influenza epidemic which carried off from five to six per cent of the entire population. The survivors were left feeble in spirit and weak in body. Whole families were prostrated together with no one to cook for them or water the cattle or to look after the crops. The situation was met by the suspension of land revenue and by liberal grant of *taccavi* loans. Sanjari Tahsil and the northern zamindaris of the District comprising an area of 3,015 sq. miles and 3,10,463 souls (according to 1941 Census) were enveloped by the calamity.

Famine again spread its evil tentacles in 1920-21. Coming so soon after the scarcity of 1918-19 it caused even greater suffering. The extent of the failure can be judged from the fact that no rain at all was received anywhere in the District from about the 15th September, 1920, to the 21st January, 1921. The prolonged drought caused severe contraction of the *rabi* sowings and prevented satisfactory germination. The result was a total failure of both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops in the area in which the crops depend on the rainfall to come to maturity. The tracts most affected were the five northern groups of Bemetara Tahsil the Bori Revenue Inspector Circle of Durg Tahsil and the two forest groups of Sanjari Tahsil. Economic conditions were so unfavourable that large number of labourers specially from Bemetara Tahsil emigrated to the industrial centres of Bengal and Bihar in search of employment.

The area which remained most unscathed from the ravages of the famine was the area commanded by the Tandula Canal which though only partially completed, played up magnificently, a heavy fall of rain fortunately refilling the reservoir when much depleted, and there was no distress in the area protected. The saving power of irrigation was thus fully demonstrated.

Among the measures taken to relieve the situation were suspensions, distribution of *taccavi* with a lavish hand and the opening of relief works. The following statement shows the amount of suspensions granted and the number of villages affected :—

Year	Villages Affected (Nos.)	Land Revenue Suspended (Rs.)
1913-14	113	15,376
1918-19	922	1,76,864
1920-21	1,462	3,15,923
1922-23	83	11,729
1924-25	32	3,260

In 1940-41, there was severe crop failure in the District. *Kharif* crops suffered due to the advent of the monsoon and scanty rainfall in September and October. Again in 1941-42, on account of scanty rainfall in June, July and August and prolonged drought in the months of September and October there was general failure of the rice crop in the District.

In 1958, scarcity prevailed in Kawardha and parts of Khairagarh Tahsil. The scarcity of the subsequent year, in addition to the above tracts, also affected some villages of Durg Tahsil, and Bemetara. Again in 1961, Bemetara and Khairagarh Tahsils were enveloped by distress.

There have been crop failures of serious nature necessitating the opening of relief works in a number of years but the District remained conspicuous by the absence of the dismal record of famines till we come to mid-sixties of this Century. The absence of famines can largely be attributed to improved transport, development of techniques for dealing with distress in its early stages and the absence of successive crop failures which would have a cumulative effect.

The above account of the famines which have visited the District has shown that the rainfall especially of the latter monsoon in September and October is highly precarious, and upon it depends the fate of the rice crop. Rice is one of the most profitable crops to grow, especially as second sowings can in good soil be made in the damp rice-fields, but it requires a substantial quantity of rain extending over a considerable period, and even partial failure may do it irreparable damage. The past history of the District shows that the considerable expenditure on irrigation tanks now being incurred by Government cannot fail in the long run to be fully repaid.

Floods

A flood of mild intensity was recorded in 1959 in which 7 persons and 180 heads of cattle perished. In 1961 there were floods of high intensity in the Sakasi river in Bemetara Tahsil and Piparia and Muska nullahs in Khairagarh Tahsil. Flood affected 104 villages in Bemetara Tahsil and 8 villages in Khairagarh Tahsil in an area of about 15 sq. miles. Two human lives and 17 heads of cattle were lost. About 352 houses were damaged. Loss of crops was estimated at Rs. 85,000.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

The single factor that brought about a major change in the economy of the District in the decade 1951-61, was the establishment of a Steel Plant at Bhilai in the District. Purely rural and agricultural economy of the District is now in the process of transformation, as an area seething with industrial and mining activities.

Taking the economic classes of self-supporting persons plus earning dependents in respect of their secondary means of livelihood as "workers", the percentage of "workers" in occupational class, production other than cultivation of 1951 Census, was 5.93 of the total "workers". This percentage in the comparable occupational classes of 1961 Census viz., mining and quarrying, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities (Class III); household industry (Class IV) and manufacturing other than household industry (Class V)—all three classes together, increased to 10.25 per cent of the total "workers". But the Census classes include much else besides what might be termed as actual industrial activity and the percentages refer to the "workers" i.e., economically active persons only. Yet read against the background of the limitations of the Census data, percentage changes as given above indicate that population dependent on industrial activities for livelihood had increased considerably. In absolute figures the increase was from 52,110 in 1951 to 120,824 in the year 1961. It may be noted that these figures refer to the number of "workers" only.

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

The earlier Gazetteer of the District[1] had very little to state about the manufactures of the District. Coarse country cloth was woven in several of the larger villages. Among the different centres producing coarse cloth, Nawagarh produced checked cloth. Principal centres producing coarse cloth were Durg, Dhamdha, Patan, Balod. Déokar, Bemetara, Arjunda, Arkar and Bhedni. Thread of counts of 10 to 12 was generally used, and thick cloth was sometimes woven with thread of 6 to 8 with red borders to suit local taste. Shepherds made white, black and checked blankets, which were sold at Rs. 1.25 and Rs. 3 a piece. *Tasar* silk was produced in a village or two, Seoni in Bemetara Tahsil being famous for this industry. Ornaments and vessels of brass and bell-metal were made at Durg, Nawagarh and Dhamdha. Stone bowls and crucibles were made at Nawagarh in the District. The hills of the Dondi-Lohara, Khujji and Gandai

1. Drug District Gazetteer, p. 103

zamindaries contained deposits of iron ore and iron in small quantities was smelted by indigenous methods and used for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Other industries like carpentry, blacksmity, pottery-making, shoemaking, basket-making, rope-making, etc., common to the rural economy of the country from olden times, even now exist and cater to the needs of rural population in the District as elsewhere. This shows that the District did not have even a single industry in a prosperous condition so as to merit description. There were no factories of any kind in the District in the earlier decades of the present century. However, coinciding with the reorganization of States, the things were destined to change bringing the District prominently on the industrial map, not only of the State but also of the Country.

POWER

Durg, as a District was constituted in the year 1906. In the process of consolidating and unifying the Country soon after Independence, Khairagarh. Kawardha, Rajnandgaon and Chhuikhadan from among the Chhattisgarh States, were merged in the District in the year 1948. Before the merger of Chhattisgarh States Durg District had no power-station, but from among these States, Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan and Rajnandgaon had their own power-stations. Power-house at Chhuikhadan among these three was the earliest established one, that is in the year 1926. Rajnandgaon power-station was established in 1928, and Khairagarh power-station in the year 1930. Thus, at the time of the merger of the States in the District in the year 1948, the District had three power-stations at three places, out of which two were Tahsil towns. Power generation at all these three power-stations was on diesel oil power generating sets. Separate Electricity Department established earlier in the year 1945 in the erstwhile Madhya Pradhesh proposed to extend its Eastern Grid System to Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh in the second phase of its working. with a view to improving power supply position. In the year 1950, Chhuikhadan power station had one power generating set with a capacity of 45 K. W. Khairagarh had two sets with a total capacity of 80 K.W., and Rajnandgaon had four sets with a capacity of 220 K. W. The number of consumers of electricity, generated from these power-stations in the same year was 130 for Chhuikhadan and 427 for Rajnandgaon.

Power station at Durg was established in the year 1951 with one oil set with a generating capacity of 75 K.W. Thus, in the year 1951, there were in the District four power stations all working under the Government Electricity Department.

Taking the demand for industrial power as one of the indicators of industrial development, it may be pointed out that there was no demand for industrial power from Chhuikhadan power-station. This power-station was connected to Grid on 18th April, 1957. From the power-station at Durg, the demand for industrial power, low and medium voltage, was 0.005 million K.W. Hrs., in the year 1951, which had increased to 0.096 million K. W.Hrs., in the year 1953. There was no demand for industrial power, high voltage, during this period from this

power-station. Durg power-station was connected to Grid on 4th April, 1953, and began to draw its bulk supply of power from Raipur power-station. Consequently data regarding segregation of demand for power was included under Raipur power-station from the year 1954. Khairagarh power-station sold 0.010 million K.W.Hrs., for industrial power, low and medium voltage, in th year 1951. There was a steady increase in this demand which stood at 0.054 million K.W.Hrs., by 31st March, 1958. There was no demand for industrial power high voltage from this power-station. Rajnandgaon power-station sold 0.017 million K.W.Hrs., towards industrial power high voltage in the year 1951. There was no demand in the year for industrial power low and medium voltage. During the years 1952 and 1953, Rajnandgaon power-station sold industrial power, low and meduim voltage only, the figures being 0.064 and 0.075 million K.W.Hrs., respectively. This power-house was connected to Grid on May, 1953 and also began to draw its power supply from Raipur power-station, and for the years subsequent to 1953 data regarding segregation of demand for power were included under Raipur power-station. Rajnandgaon power-station came under Eastern Grid system from 1955. From this year all the four stations came under the managemant of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board.

The data given above indirectly throw light on the industrial under-development of the District during the period of the First Five Year Plan. Great change in this state of the District was to come in the following years associated with the establishment of the Steel Plant at Bhilai, one of the thousands of non-descript villages in the District till the end of the First Five Year Plan, turning out to be a synonym for the economic development of the District and the State.

It was in August, 1957 that a power generating station was established at Bhilai with an installed capacity of 6,000 K. W. This is a diesel power generating station. Supply of power from this station is being supplemented by drawing on the power generated at Korba Thermal Power Station. Particulars regarding number of consumers and segregation of demand for power are as under:—

(K.W. Hrs)

Year	No. of Consumers	Industrial Power Medium Voltage	Industrial Power High Voltage
1957	2,870	23,79,003	39,12,586
1958	3,626	27,74,874	1,80,98,286
1959	4,186	32,93,500	4,23,35,306
1960	5,152	30,05,185	13,94,79,716
1961	6,150	35,15.329	24,70,14,171
1962	7,417	45,70,070	24,89,02,136
1963	8,543	56,29,601	1,64,37,884
1964	9,747	57,74.004	2,46,12.022
1965	10,929	51,72,757	6,10,93,699

The above figures of demand for industrial power juxtaposed to the figures for the years preceding 1957 bespeak a virtual industrial revolution in the District.

Under the Rural Electrification Programme 67 villages were electrified in the District upto January, 1964.

INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURES

Mining

The District is rich in mineral wealth, which remained unexploited for its economic development upto the second half of the present century. Iron-ore, lime-stone, fluorspar, soap-stone, lead-ore, laterite and bauxite, quartzite, clay, etc., are all available in the District.

Iron-ore

The occurrence of valuable iron-ore in parts of the District was not known until it was referred to in a paper published in the Records of Geological Survey of India, Vol. XX, of 1887 by P. N. Bose. The District having been explored again in behalf of Messrs. Tata Sons and Co., a large area in the Dondi-Lohara Zamindari in the western part of the District was taken up under prospecting licence for detailed examination. Rajhara hill was first surveyed by the Tatas in 1905. On account of their resistance to weathering agents the iron-ores stand up as conspicuous hillocks in the general peneplain. The most striking of these is the ridge which includes the Dalli and Rajhara hills, extending for about 20 miles in a zigzag, almost continuous line and sometimes rising to heights of 300 feet above the general level of the flat country around. The prospecting operations at that time proved the existence of 2½ million tons of ore. The quantity estimated was that which might be regarded as ore in sight. Later during the geological mapping of the District, the estimated reserves of ore in the Dondi-Lohara Zamindari were estimated at 114 million tons, vide Records of Geological Survey of India, 1937. An Appraisal Report on the Mineral Resources and Metallurgical Industry brought out as a part of Techno-Economic Survey of Madhya Pradesh conducted in 1958, has also taken the figure of estimated desposits at 114 million tons.

The record of iron-smelting in small indigenous blast furnaces in the early part of the present century in the District shows the number of furnances at work during certain years as under:—

Year	No. of Furnaces
1909	56
1913	40
1918	101
1923	19
1928	16
1933	3
1937	6

The average annual yield of iron per furnace was about 1 ½ tons.

Immense change was brought about in the exploitation of iron-ore in the District with the establishment of the Steel Plant at Bhilai. A highly mechanized mine according to Russian design was commissioned on 31st October, 1960, and iron-ore from Dalli-Rajhara started pouring in to feed the Steel Plant at Bhilai. Rajhara hills are estimated to have 80 million tons of best iron-ore in the world, while Dalli hill has estimated deposits of 600 million tons. In the year before the commissioning of the mechanized mine, that is in the year 1959, the quantity of iron-ore despatched to the Plant was 511,607.66 tons. Production of iron-ore from Rajhara mines from 1961 to 1969 was as under:

(In tonnes)

Year	Quantity
1961	1,660,134
1962	1,869,133
1963	2,128,326
1964	2,484,524
1965	2,118,083
1966	37,73,247
1967	37,40,175
1968	35,52,803
1969	35,58,105

The figures show an increasing trend in production year after year. In the year 1962 there were 2,283 workers in iron-ore mines, increasing to 2,996 in the year 1965.

Lime-Stone

Besides the occurrence of iron-ore, the District was also known for the occurrence of lime-stone deposits. There was a stone quarry in the village of Sikosa of Durg Tahsil. The lime-stone slabs from this quarry were of bluish colour, as large as 20 by 10 feet and about 3 inches thick. The quarry was worked by the Public Works Department and stones were used for the construction of the Durg District Office and for the Secretariat Buildings at Nagpur.

It was only when the area was fully prospected in connection with the Bhilai Steel Project that the existence of about 21 million tons of flux grade lime-stone was proved at Nandini in the District over an area of one square mile to a depth of 60 feet. It was in the year 1959 that 2,09,279 tons of lime-stone was despatched from this mine to Bhilai Steel Plant. The number of mines and quarries of lime-stone, which was only one in the year 1959, increased to three in the year 1965. Production of lime-stone in the District was as under:

(In tonnes)

Year	Quantity
1961	7,17,784
1962	5,21,343
1963	9,54,747
1964	6,72,461
1965	13,36,508
1966	42,69,690
1967	16,98,734.85
1968	24,10,963.94
1969	14,87,550.71

In the year 1965 lime-stone, mines and quarries provided employment to 1,705 workers in the District.

It may be noted here that iron-ore and lime-stone are the two major minerals in the District. Other minerals found are fluorspar, soap-stone, lead-ore, laterite and bauxite, redochre, sand-stone and clays.

Fluorspar

It is a moderately hard, glassy and transparent to translucent mineral. It is the only primary mineral source of fluorine for industrial use. In the District, Chandi-Dongri deposit is the most important. Other places of its occurrence are Kottapani hill in the north-west and west of the village Kottapani and on the southern portion of Gardhatekri. Production of this mineral was:

(In tonnes)

Year	Qunatity
1962	1,600
1963	6,693
1964	88,200
1965	6.44,170
1966	1,546
1967	227.55
1968	108.82
1969	1,073.50

There were 225 workers engaged in extraction of this mineral in 1965.

Soap-stone

It is a massive rock, the chief mineral constituent of which is talc, usually present in sufficient quantity to give the rock a soapy feel. It occurs at Kilekora, in Sanjari Tahsil in the District and was quarried for making household utensils since long.

Lead-ore concentration occurs in the north portion of the hill at Lamta-Dongri.

Laterite and bauxite occur about one mile east of Bhave village in Khairagarh Tahsil and Rajnandgaon Tahsil of the District. The quantity of laterite and bauxite available was estimated at one million tons. Laterite may be found suitable for use as flux in the open hearth steel furnace. The deposits are 50 miles away from the nearest railhead, Dongargarh of Rajnandgaon.

Occurtence of quarrzite is reported in Balod Tahsil of the District. The deposits are considered suitable for manufacture of glass. Paoduction of the mineral was:

(In tounes)

Year	Quantity
1962	34,753.43
1963	44,826.66
1964	N. R.
1965	71,103.00
1966	17.554.94
1967	16,800.92
1968	27,927.19
1969	32,374.91

The number of workers employed in extracting this mineral was 231 in the year 1965.

Besides the important minerals mentioned above, as in the year 1965 out of 77 quarries of stone boulders, *gitti* ballast, etc., 68 were working. Production in this year was 3,45,521 metric tons. Ordinary clay quarries in the same year were 61, out of which 56 were working. Production was 1,40,044.74 metric tons. There were 37 sand quarries working in 1965, with a production of 2,16,689.80 metric tons. Ten quarries of flooring stone were also working in the year.

Heavy Industries

In referring to the manufactures of the District, the Author of the earlier Gazetteer had to state, that "The District has no factories".[1] Where even factory estiblishment was unknown during the early decade of the century, the most important heavy industry, viz., iron and steel making has sprung up with the net-work of its ancillaries and subsidiaries, presenting the vertitable sight of a giant bee-hive buzzing with round-the-clock. incessant activity. The pehomenon savours more of a miracle, confirming one's faith in the inscrutable destinies not only of human beings but also of the places. The fame of the small, obscure village

1. Drug District Gazetteer, p. 104.

Bhilai, a veritable Sleepy Hollow, has crossed the boundaries not only of the District and the State but even of the Country. Heavy Industry viz. iron and steel making, became a synonym of Bhilai Iron and Steel Works, a pride of the whole Nation.

Bhilai Steel Project

Historical.

Up to the year 1944 the planning and establishment of industries, including iron and steel works, was considered to be the business of private enterprise. In that year, the Department of Planning and Development of the Government of India set up an Iron and Steel (Major) Panel to consider the post-war development of iron and steel industry and to examine the feasibility of realising a target of 2½ to 3 million tons for the manufacture of steel during the first five year period after the termination of the War. In February, 1945, the Chairman of the Panel requested the then Provincial Government to collect and supply information as to the location of the plant with special reference to accessibility of the principal and auxiliary raw materials, namely, (1) iron-ore, coking coal, gas coal, steam coal and (2) fire-clay, silica, magnesite, dolomite, lime-stone, chrome and sulphur, together with an ample and perennial supply of water, transport facilities, markets, etc.

In June, 1945 the available information was supplied and after considering the material furnished by the Government and the Geological Survey of India, the Iron and Steel (Major) Panel expressed the view that a site or sites in the neighbourhood of Raipur in Chhattisgarh would perhaps be more suitable for the location of iron and steel plant in the erstwhile Central Provinces.

The arguments put forward by the Panel were found convincing. Raipur, area was considered to be in a more favourable position than the alternative Chanda area (now in Maharashtra State) from the labour point of view. In the initial stages coking coal was assumed to be imported from Bihar. If at all coking coal was likely to be found, the most likely places it was stated, were the Korea and Surguja coal fields lying to the north and north-east of Bilaspur. The supplies of non-coking coal were near at hand at Korba. Lime-stone for flux was already available locally. Two sites were tentatively selected one at Tilda and the other at Bilha on Main Eastern rail-route (then known as Bengal Nagpur Railway) between the towns of Raipur and Bilaspur where the perennial Sheonath river crosses the line. For water supply, it was proposed to bund this river. Iron-ore in both cases was to come from Dalli and Rajhara hills.

The then Provincial Government accordingly proposed Tilda and Bilha as provisional sights and the Iron and Steel (Major) Panel after carefully sonsidering all the factors, made their final recommendation that—

"But except Bihar and Western Bengal, there is no part of India where a major iron and steel works can be built and brought into operation within the

period we are considering, except perhaps the Central Provinces which appear to have the best immediate claim to the establishment of one such works. In this Province a site at or near Tilda between Raipur and Bilaspur substantially fulfils most of the above conditions except that at present no workable deposits of metallurgical coal have been discovered, much less worked."[1]

Thus, while the site for location of Tilda was preferred on all counts the events leading to the change of site from Tilda to Bhilai were briefly as under.

After receiving the recommendations of the Iron and Steel (Major) Panel, the Government of India invited (1) Koppers Company Inc., of Pittsburgh, U. S. A. (2) Arthur G. Mckee and Co., Engineers and Contractors, Cleveland, Ohio, U. S. A. , and (3) International Construction Co., Ltd., Consulting Engineers and Contractors, London, to make preliminary survey and report in connection with this new project. The experts from all these three Missions visited the site in the months of August, September and October, 1948, respectively.

All the three Missions after the survey of the area suggested shifting of the site for the location of the Plant from Tilda on grounds of economies to be effected by doing so. However, it was the International Construction Company's Mission which suggested Bhilai as the site for plant, as they thought that the balance of advantage lay in siting the factory on the Bombay-Calcutta main line, which was proved to be suitable in all respects by survey and trenching.

The Provincial Government found the visits of these experts instructive and useful because many of the important factors and criteria which have to be taken into account for the success of the projected iron industry were not known. The Government, therefore, considered it necessary and important that all possible additional information should be collected to prepare a formal case for the establishment of the industry. Accordingly, the then Commissioner of Chhattisgarh Division, S. N. Mehta, who had participated in the discussions with the various Missions, was placed on special duty in this connection. Survey operations for coking coal in the Korba area, which is the nearest coalfield revealed that this vast coalfield embracing over 250 sq. miles contains not only large reserves of gas and steam coal but also of superior coking coal.

Years passed in all such hectic activities and in early 1953 the Government of India appointed a technical mission consisting of an expert from the World Bank, an expert from the Government of India and an Engineer from Messrs. Koppers Co., of U. S. A. to re-examine the project reports prepared earlier in 1948 to advise the Government of India on the location of iron and steel plants. The Government of Madhya Pradesh made out a very strong and convincing case in their memorandum "New Iron and Steel Plant—The Claim of Madhya Pradesh," for the establishment of iron and steel plant at Bhilai, sup-

1. Memorandum on the Location of An Iron and Steel Industry at Bhilai, Durg District, Central Provinces and Berar, 1949, p. 7.

porting the case with all the relevant engineering, technical, economic and statistical details. This was followed by protracted negotiations and discussions ultimately culminating in a decision that one iron and steel plant in the public sector be located at Bhilai in Durg District in technical collaboration with the U.S.S.R. Thus, on 2nd February, 1955 an agreement between the Government of India and the U. S. S. R. was signed. As per terms of this agreement the designing of the plant and its components as well as manufacture of the equipment was to be carried out by the U. S. S. R. organisations participating in this collaboration. Technical guidance both for the construction and erection of the Plant and its operation during the initial period was to be provided by the U. S. S. R. Government.

On 9th December, 1955 detailed project report and working drawings were handed over to the Government of India. Project report with some changes was accepted on the 8th March, 1956. Excavations for the foundation of Blast Furnace No. 1 began on the 20th April, 1957 and the sleeping village of Bhilai awoke into an intense activity.

Location

The Plant is located on the Great Eastern Road, eight miles to the east of Durg. Bhilai Railway Station is two miles from the Plant. The area covered by the Plant is 4.3 sq. km.

From the point of view of the availability of raw-materials, the Steel Plant site stands within the watersheds of two big rivers the Sheonath and the Kharun.

Water for plant as well as for Bhilai township is drawn from the Tandula canal drawing from Tandula and Gondli reservoirs provided by the State Government about 56 km., from Bhilai. Daily off-take of drinking water for the Plant is 16,350m^3 and for the Township 49,735 m^3. Off-take of water by the Plant for industrial use is 64,500 m^3 daily.

Iron-ore for the plant comes from the following mines.

Name of Mines	Dates of Commissioning
Chikli	22nd October, 1958
Rajhara	30th October, 1960
Dalli	1st September, 1962
Aridongri	1st April, 1963
Kokan	16th January, 1964
Jharan Dalli	November, 1966

Rajhara mine was mechanized according to Russian design. Jharan Dalli is a semi-mechanized mine. Crushing Plant at Rajhara was started on 26th

November, 1960. A broad-guage line has been constructed for conveying iron-ore from the Mines to Bhilai. Approximate distance from Rajhara Mines to the Plant is 90 km. Transportation of ore by rail started from the 22nd October, 1958.

Lime-stone is obtained from the Project-owned mines at Nandini, at a dis tance of 32 km., from the Plant. The reserves of iron-ore and lime-stone in the District are adequate to sustain the production of iron and steel at Bhilai for several decades. A railway line has also been constructed from Nandini to Bhilai for conveying lime-stone. Transportation of lime-stone by rail to Bhilai started from the 31st December, 1958. Crushing Plant at Nandini was commissioned on 9th July, 1960.

Unwashed coal comes from Jharia and Raniganj in Bihar and West Bengal and washed coal mainly from Kargali and Dugda washeries both in Bihar. Manganese ore comes from Balaghat.

Bulk of the power for the Plant is being received from the Thermal Power Station of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board at Korba, 160 miles from Bhilai. Average daily consumption of electrical energy from Korba is 1.008 x 10^{6} K. W. Hrs. The Steel Plant have their own power generating plant with a capacity of 36.000 K. W. Energy consumption from the Plant generation is 504x10^{3} K. W. Hrs., daily. In so far as transport factor is concerned the Plant is located on the main Eastern road and rail routes. It is 530 miles from Calcutta and 692 miles from Bombay. Distance from the Plant site to Vishakhapatnam Port is 343 miles.

Finance

The Plant is under the management of Hindustan Steel Limited, a Company entirely owned by the Government of India with an authorised capital of Rs. 600 crores of which Rs. 528 crores is subscribed capital divided into 5.28 million equity shares of Rs. 1,000 each. Originally, the cost of the Plant and equipment was estimated at Rs. 131 crores, and inclusive of mines, ancillary works and township, the total cost was estimated at Rs. 150 crores. However, on account of the rise in the costs of imported material and persisting inflationary economic conditions in the Country itself, the quantum of investment in machinery and equipment, and in the ancillaries like development of mines and quarries, township, etc., increased to a total of Rs. 202.3 crores with the foreign exchange component of little over Rs. 97 crores.

Another aspect of the finance was the cost for the expansion of the capacity of the Plant from one million to 2.5 million tonne. As in the year 1962, the original cost of the expansion programme was estimated at Rs. 138 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 56 crores. The amount had increased since, on account of the extra facilities and equipment requested by Hindustan Steel, as also on account of other factors mentioned earlier and stood at Rs. 154.8

crores with foreign exchange component, as per revised estimate, of Rs. 60.3 crores.

Construction

Construction work of the Plant started in the month of May, 1957. The first bucket of concrete was laid in the foundation of Blast Furnace No. 1 in the month of June, 1957. The commissioning of this first Blast Furnace and the first battery of Coke Ovens took place on 4th February, 1959, when the plant was formally inaugurated by the Late President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The rest of the units of the Plant were commissioned one after the other and in March, 1961 the Government of the U. S. S. R. and the Government of India, through a joint communique announced the completion of construction of Bhilai Steel Works as per Project Report for one million tonne plant. More than 200 ships were required to carry more than 500,000 tons of various cargo from the U. S. S. R. to India. The machinery and equipment were fabricated in more than 400 factories in the Soviet Union.

The initial out-put i.e. Pig Iron was being produced by three blast-furnaces. The melting of steel was being carried out in six Open-Hearth Furances. Other important production units of the Plant were the Coke-Ovens, Blooming Mill, Billet Mill, Rail and Structural Mills, Merchant Mill and the auxiliary shops and utilities. The lay-out of the Plant was such as to raise the capacity of one million tonne to an out-put of 2.5 million tonnes of steel per annum during Third Plan period. The speed with which the construction programme for one million tonne plant was executed may be seen from the following details about commissioning of the Blast Furnaces, Coke-Oven Batteries, Open-Hearth Furnaces, etc.

Blast Furnaces

First Blast Furnace	--	commissioned on 4th February, 1959
Second ,,	--	commissioned on 28th December, 1959
Third ,,	--	commissioned on 28th December, 1960.

Each of these three furnaces has a capacity of producing 1,135 tonnes of basic grade pig iron or 900 tonnes of foundry grade pig iron per day.

Coke-Oven Batteries

First Coke Oven Battery	—	commissioned on 31st January, 1959
Second ,,	—	commissioned on 22nd December, 1959
Third ,,	—	commissioned on 27th December, 1960.

About 17 lakh tonnes of coal is required annually for producing coke. Annual coke requirement of the Plant is 1,100,000 tonnes. Each Battery of 65 ovens. for preparation of coke from coal has a capacity of producing 1,000 tonne of coke daily.

Open-Hearth Furnaces

First Open Hearth Furance	—	commissioned on 11th October, 1959
Second ,,	—	commissioned on 17th December, 1959
Third ,,	—	commissioned on 23rd March, 1960
Fourth ,,	—	commissioned on 15th October, 1960
Fifth ,,	—	commissioned on 27th December, 1960
Sixth ,,	—	commissioned on 22nd February, 1961

Conversion of pig-iron into steel is done in Open-Hearth Furnaces. Each furnace has a capacity of producing 250 tons of steel per charge.

The one million tonne capacity Plant, besides the Furnaces and Coke-Oven Batteries as above, comprised of four Rolling Mills, viz., Blooming Mill, continuous Billets Mill, Rail and Structural Mill and Merchant Mill. It has in addition, a Sintering Plant, main Oxygen Plant, pig casting machines and a number of auxiliary units like Refractory materials Plant, Foundry, Machine Shop, Structural Shop, Electrical Repair Shop, etc. Besides the plant has its own rail transport, water supplies department, Research and Contrition Laboratory, etc.

Indo-Soviet joint communique, signed by Sardar Swaran Singh, then Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel and A. N. Kosygin, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U. S. S. R., mentioning completion of construction of an integrated Iron and Steel Works at Bhilai with a capacity of one million tonne steel ingots per annum, was issued from New Delhi on 4th March, 1961. During the year ending 31st March, 1963 the Steel Works reached full capacity production of one million tonne ingot steel per annum. It is worth setting out here that a new record was set up in steel production at Bhilai Plant on 22nd December, 1962 when 250 tonnes of steel was made in four hours and 30 minutes in Open-Hearth Furance No. 1 against the normal time of 11 to 12 hours. This was stated to be a remarkable achievement for a large size furnace of 250 tons capacity. Thus, it was not only that by the end of the Second Five Year Plan the construction of the Plant was complete but also the targets of production set out for most of the departments were exceeded in a short time.

Expansion

The construction programme of the Bhilai Steel Plant, however, did not end with the completion of one million tonne plant as above. One million tonne plant was but a mere beginning of an ambitious programme in the field of heavy industries. As stated earlier, the lay-out of the Plant included provision for its expansion to 2.5 million tonne capacity. Even as the construction phase of one million tonne was drawing to its close, the Project Report for expanding the Plant's capacity was ready by April, 1961. While the Project Report was being discussed, the works programme for expansion was taken up in December, 1961. The Project Report for expansion was received from Russia in August, 1961.

The Indian engineers and specialists at Bhilai Steel Plant studied in detail this twenty-volume Report prepared by the Soviet engineers. The then Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuels, Sardar Swaran Singh declared in the month of November, 1961 in the Lok Sabha that the Union Government and the Hindustan Steel Ltd., had approved with slight modifications the detailed Project Report submitted by the U. S. S. R. for expansion of Bhilai Steel Works.

The contract for the supply of equipment and materials for the expansion programme was signed on 9th February, 1962 at New Delhi by Shri J. M. Shrinagesh, Chairman, on behalf of the Hindustan Steel Ltd., and A. E. Nikitin on behalf of "Tiazhprom export" suppliers from the U. S. S. R. Under the contract, besides the supply of equipment and material for the expansion of Steel Plant, equipment for expansion of the iron-ore mines at Rajhara and the lime-stone mines at Nandini were also included. The Soviet Union were to depute specialists for rendering technical assistance in the designing, construction, erection and commissioning of the new units. Provision also existed in the contract for the training of adequate number of engineers and technicians in the U. S. S. R. during the expansion period.

Under the expansion programme Bhilai Plant was to have three more Coke-Oven Batteries of 65 ovens each, in addition to the existing three Batteries; two more Blast-Furnaces of 1,719 cubic metres each, in addition to the three existing 1,033 cubic metre furnaces; four more Open-Hearth furnaces of 500 tonne capacity each and conversion of one of the six existing 250 tonne furnaces to 500 tonne capacity; eight additional groups of Soaking Pits, two additional 1,000 mm.. Stands in the Billet Mill, one more Sintering machine of 50 sq. metres area, a Wire Rod Mill and a Slag Processing Plant. The Wire Rod Mill was to have a capacity of producing 4,00,000 tonnes of wire-rods annually. Foundation of Blast Furnace No. 4 was laid on 10th December, 1962.

The annual pattern of production at Bhilai after expansion was set at.--

1.	Heavy Rails	5,00,000	Tonnes
2.	Heavy Structurals	2.50,000	,,
3.	Merchant Mill Products	5,00,000	,,
4.	Wire rod mill products	4,00,000	,,
5.	Billets for Sale	3,15,000	,,
	Total	19,65,000	Tonnes

The Fourth Blast Furnace, was commissioned on 8th December, 1964. The commissioning of the Fifth Blast Furnace though somewhat delayed due to inadequate power supply, took place on 27th November, 1966. The fourth Coke-Oven Battery and the seventh Open-Hearth Furnace were commissioned on 30th September and 26th November, 1964, respectively.

The delay in the Commissioning some of the 2.5 million tonne units was due mainly to inadequacy of power and sale orders. However, most of the units constituting the expansion work of the Bhilai Steel Plant to 2.5 million capacity were complete by the end of the Third Five Year Plan period.

In addition the Fourth Five Year Plane xpansion of the plant envisages.—

The Seventh Coke-Oven Battery similar to the existing six Batteries with suitable addition to the Coal Preparation Plant, the Sixth Blast-Furnace of 1,719 cu. m. useful volume, Fourth Sintering machine of 50 sq. metres and additions to their ancillary facilities.

The rated capacities of different Departments under one million and 2.5 million tonnes production programmes were.—

Particulars	Under 1.0 million tonne	Under 2.5 million tonne
Coke Ovens	1,145,000	2,290,000
Sintering Plant	1,000,000	1,870,000
Blast Furnace Shop	1,110,000	2,361,000
Steel Melting Shop	1,000,000	2,500,000
Blooming Mill	8,59,000	2,142,000
Billet Mill	4,27,000	1,263,000
Rail and Structural Mill	3,65,000	7,50,000
Merchant Mill	2,55,000	5,00,000
Wire Rod Mill	—	4,00,000

The sixth blast furnace of the Bhilai Steel Plant was commissioned on July 31, 1971. The unit, which can produce about 6,00,000 tonnes of pig iron per year, marks the first step in Bhilai's expansion programme, to add to the plant's installed capacity of 2.5 million tonnes of steel ingots.

This is the first time Indian engineers have done all the work relating to the construction of a blast furnace.

The blast furnace, built at a cost of Rs. 14 crore, has as much as 75 per cent of indigenous components. About 66 per cent of the equipment, 68 per cent of the refractories and all the structurals required for the blast furnace came from indigenous sources.

The blast furnace is of modern design, incorporating the latest technology in use in advanced countries. The design of the new unit has certain special features, as compared to existing blast furnaces in other major steelworks in the country.

There is to be further expansion of the plant's capacity to about 4 million tonnes of steel ingots per year.

Production

The volume of different products of the Plant are given in the Appendix

Employment

The magnitude of employment at the Bhilai Steel Plant varied according to the pace of construction and operation programme for the one million tonne plant and during subsequent expansion phases of the Plant. Employment aspect of the Bhilai Steel Plant may, therefore, be considered under two broad categories i.e., construction and operation. The employment position on both these counts is set out in the Appendix.

Training

The establishment of one million tonne Steel Plant was estimated to require about 700 Engineers and Metallurgists, 1,400 Senior and Junior Operatives and 8,000 Skilled workers, over and above the Semi-Skilled and Unskilled personnel. The Steel project authorities had to face acute shortage of technical labour as the construction of the Plant progressed. The Hindustan Steel Limited, therefore, established Bhilai Technical Institute at Bhilai which is an integral part of the Steel Works. The Institute built at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs, started functioning on 8th June, 1959. The Institute has been designed to train 1,420 persons annually including Graduate Apprentices, Operatives and Skilled workers. Details of different training schemes are.—

(A) Graduate Engineers Training.—These are recruited by Head Office on the basis of the annual requirements of the Plant. The minimum qualification required is Degree in Engineering. Period of training is two years. During training Graduate Engineers get Rs. 400 per month plus dearness allowance. After completion of training they are appointed as Assistant Foremen in the scale of pay of Rs. 400-950.

(B) Operative Training Scheme for Senior and Junior Operatives.—These trainees are recruited by the Plant authorities according to vacancy position. The minimum qualification for Senior Operative Trainees is B. Sc., or Diploma in Engineering. The training period is one and a half years. During training period Senior Operatives get a stipend of Rs. 140 per month in the first year and Rs. 160 per month in the six months of the second year. After completion of training they get a scale of Rs. 210-365. Annual intake capacity of the Plant was 250 in 1966.

Junior Operative trainees are recruited by the Plant authorities according to the vacancy position. The minimum qualification is Matriculation with Science and Mathematics. The training period is one and a half years. During training they get a stipend of Rs. 75 per month in the first year and Rs. 80 per month in

the six months of the second year. On successful completion of training they get a scale of Rs. 113-147. Annual in-take capacity was 300 in 1966.

(C) Artisan Training under the Apprentices Act.—There are two categories of trainees under the Act, Longterm Apprentices whose training period ranges from one-and-a half to three and four years and Short-Term Apperentices whose training period is six months.

(a) Long-Term Apprentices.—They are recruited twice a year i.e.. in January and July according to the requirements of the Apprentices Act. The Management of the Plant are required to keep on roll at anytime during the year 405 trainees. The minimum qualification is Matriculation or Matriculation plus I. T. I. For certain trades the qualification is two classes below Matric. In the case of Matriculation the period of training is three years for most of the trades, and for the following trades the period of training is four years.—

1. Mechanic Earth Moving Machinery.

2. Mill-Wright/Maintenance Mechanic.

In the cases of Matric plus I. T. I. the period of training is one-and-a half years.

The Long-Term Apprentices get a stipend including good progress allowance at the rate of Rs. 70 per month in the first year, Rs. 75 per month in the second year and Rs. 80 per month in the third year. During the 4th Year they get a minimum of the pay of the lowest Skilled worker employed in the Plant, i.e. Rs. 135 per month. There is no guarantee of employment for these trainees. Depending on the availability of vacancies the successful trainees who pass the All India Trade Test on completion of training are appointed in the pay scale of Rs. 135-5-175.

(b) Short Term Apprentices.—According to the Act the Management are required to keep on their roll at any time 83 Short Term Apprentices in different trades. The minimum qualification for Short-Term Apprentices is I. T. I. pass. The recruitment is done round the year depending on availability of vacancies.

The training period is six months. There is no guarantee of employment on completion of training. Depending on vacancies, successful candidates are appointed in the pay scale of Rs. 113-147.

All these trainees (Senior Operatives, Junior Operatives and Apprentices under the Act) are recruited through the local Employment Exchange.

Recruitment in respect of Senior Operatives and Junior Operatives is done according to availability of vacancies against which trainees are eventually appointed. There was no recruitment for these categories of trainees by the end of 1966.

All these trainees except the Short-Term Apprentices are provided accommodation in the hostel depending on availability of seats. The rent which includes electricity and water supply is charged as under.—

Senior Operative Trainees	—	Rs. 5 per month
Junior Operative Trainees	—	Rs. 2 per month
Long-Term Apprentices	—	Rs. 2 per month

Position regarding trained personnel in Bhilai Steel Plant under different categories as in the year 1969-1970 was as under.—

Category	No. under training on 30th June, 1970	No. posted for In-Plant training after July, 1969 to December, 1969	No. under training as on 31st December, 1969
Graduate Engineers	96	76	131
Senior Operatives	28	16	8
Junior Operatives	16	Nil	Nil
A.L.T. Trainees	700	403	702

Besides the trainees recruited for purposes of eventual employment in Bhilai Steel Plant as also those required under the obligation of the Apprentices Act, the Management also extends training facilities to other concerns and training charges are levied according to the rates approved by the Head Office. Training charges prescribed by the Head Office for training of candidates sponsored by outside organisations in Hindustan Steel Limited Plants/Institutions are as follows:—

(Rs. per month)

	Total Recoverable Cost
1. Graduate Engineers (including Student Engineers trainees Supervised training)	175
2. Graduate Engineers (Observational training)	75
3. Graduate Officers (Intensive training)	150
4. Graduate Officers (In-Service training with lectures)	75
5. Senior Operatives	95
6. Junior Operatives (Institutional training period)	75
7. Junior Operatives (Inplant training period)	60
8. Artisan trainees	100

The training charges are exclusive of transport, boarding and lodging charges, stipend etc., to be borne by the sponsoring agency.

Besides the pre-employment training as above, Bhilai Technical Institute also conducts classes for development of Chargeman Assistant Foreman, sponsored by the Heads of Departments. Similar classes are also conducted for Drafts-

man/Design Assistants etc. Vacation training ranging from two to four months is imparted to Student Engineers, sponsored by the Engineering Colleges. No stipend is paid to the Student Engineers. They have to make their own arrangement for stay and transport.

Expansion programme of training facilities to meet the requirements of trained personnel, consequent upon the expansion of the capacity of the plant to 2.5 million tonne included training of 83 Graduate Engineers, 318 Senior Operatives, 704 Junior Operatives and 599 Artisan Trainees. By 1966, the Bhilai Steel Plant have more than 900 Engineers and operatives trained in different steel plants of the U. S. S. R. for the periods varying from 6 to 15 months.

The employment position of foreign technicians (Soviet and Czech) in the Bhilai Steel Plant as on 1st January, 1966 was as under.

1.	Operation/maintenance	59
2.	Czech Experts	9
3.	Expansion (Construction)	277
4.	Supplier's Group	16
5.	Design and Planning Department	10
6.	Trade Representative Group	21
7.	Interpreters	43
	Total	436

Total number of trainees sent to U. S. S. R. so far was Eg 918

Exports

The year-wise details of exports of the products and by-products to different countries and gross value of sales were as given in Appendix.

Large Scale Industries

Textiles

One of the earliest large-scale industrial unit set up in the District was a textile mill at Rajnandgaon. This Mill was established by Raja Balram Das of the Chhattisgarh feudatory State of Nandgaon. The Raja was installed in 1891. Soon after his installation, he took up the establishment of public utility works like construction of Water Works, School Buildings, etc., at Rajnandgaon and alongwith these he also started construction of first spinning and weaving mill in Chhattisgarh in the year 1892. The Mill was named as Central Provinces Cotton Mill. After three years the Mill was sold to the Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills Company. The Mill had 478 looms and 28,224 spindles during the first decade of the present century. The number of operatives engaged during this period was 1,833. The manufactures of the Mill were *chaddar*, *dhotics*, drills, table-cloth, blankets, etc. Not much is known about the working of the Mill because it was located in one of the States, which merged with Madhya Pradesh only in 1948.

However, from the administration reports of the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States it appears that in 1906 inspite of the interruption in the operation of the Mill on account of plague the results of the year's working were good and it was decided to make additions to the Mill for meeting the increased demand for its products. The Mill appears to have worked satisfactorily during the following years. In 1922 on account of the partial strike there was stoppage of night work. The strike began in October and continued till December of the year. It was again in 1925 that the Mill was closed for a part of the year owing to a strike.

The name of the Mill appears in the list of registered factories under the Factories Act, 1948, for the Madhya Pradesh State in the year 1949. In this year the average number of workers employed daily in the Mill was 3,656. The Mill remained under the management of the Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills Company upto 1954-55. In the year 1956, there was a change in the occupancy of the Mill on account of the change in the management. As a result of the losses suffered year after year from 1953 to 1962, the Mill was closed on 29th December. 1962. The closure of the Mill entailed unemployment to a large number of workers and affected the economic activity at Rajnandgaon seriously. The Government of India enquired into the working of the Mill and took over the Mill vide order dated 17th December, 1963, and appointed M/s Rajaram Gupta and Bros. as managing agents who took charge of the Mill on 19th December, 1963. The Mill was restarted on 4th January, 1964 by the new managing agents. The production of cloth and yarn was as under. The Mill manufactured coarse and medium varieties of cloth only and specialized in the manufacture of mosquitonetting cloth.

Year	Production of	
	Cloth (In yards)	Yarn (In Lbs)
1950	17,34,5312	39,7200
1951	17,34,3410	39,7200
1952 . ..	18,40,2706	78,9600
1953 ..	10,12,2003	68,7200
1954	1,15,5555	1,02,5254
1955	9,82,2915	48,3557
1956	15,10,4473	63,5853
1957	14,25,8636	40,0108
1958	15,68,6561	77,5075
1959	13,43,6194	17,9367
1960	13,27,3428	19,2571
1961	17,39,6511	28,1822

The total number of workers in the Mill was 2,994 in the year 1950. In 1961 the number of workers was 2,550. The productive capital in the Mill was Rs.

76,89,826 in 1950 but in 1960, it was Rs. 68,03,474. The production of cloth and yarn in later years was as under.—

Year			Production of	
			Cloth (In metres)	Yarn (In kgs.)
1962	..	..	16,217,934	1,849,444
1964	..	..	17,115,266	2,239,316
1965	..	..	17,789,362	2,591,842

It may be noted here that during the year 1963, the Mill remained closed on account of the taking over of the Mill by the Government of India for conducting enquiries in its working, etc. The average number of workers daily employed in the Mill in the year 1962 was reported to be 1,445. In 1964 the number of workers was 2,477. In 1965 there were 2,319 workers working in the Mill on an average daily.

It was only with the setting-up of the Steel Plant at Bhilai that some other large-scale units were established in the District which broadly fall under the general categories of ancillary and subsidiary industries of the Steel Works. Some of the large-scale units are dealt with as under.—

Chemicals and Chemical Products

The Dharmsi Morarji Chemical Co., Ltd.

According to the classification adopted for administration of the Factories Act 1948, this unit comes under the industrial class—"Chemicals and Chemical Products—Artificial Manures". This unit was established in the year 1961 at Kumhari in the District with a capital investment of Rs. 53,68,000. Subsequently, in 1965 the investment increased to Rs. 1,28,91,000. The unit employed on an average 328 workers daily. The value figures of different products of this factory were.—

(In Rs.)

Products	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Superphosphate	4,52.056	30,04,822	52,02,865	70,44,987	82,41,612
Sulphuric Acid	69,457	1,21,480	2,68,469	83,519	3,87,968
Alumina Sulphate Grade 'A'	738	6,29,847	11,23,138	4,37,686	2,69,906
Alumina Sulphate Grade 'B'	—	64,894	4,94,951	13,42,625	18,32,315

The factory is required to sell its total production of superphosphate to the Madhya Pradesh Government. Alumina sulphate is, however, sold to the other neighbouring States also besides the Madhya Pradesh Government.

Basic Metal

Appeejay Private Ltd.

This factory comes under the category of "Basic Metal Industries, Ferrous, Rolling into Basic Forms." The factory is located at Kumhari and was established in the year 1962. In the year of establishment the investment in the factory was Rs. 8 lakhs, which increased to Rs. 10,96,000 in the year 1965. The factory employed on an average 80 workers daily.

The factory manufactures M. S. rounds, flats, angles, gate-channels, etc. The quantity and value of production was.—

Year	Quantity (Metric Tons)	Value (Rs.)
1962	2.155	12,93,000
1963	2,409	14,86,000
1964	4,070	32,60,000
1965	5,010	42,50,000
1966	4,829	44,27,394
1967	5,733	59,40,106
1968	2,701	25,36,468
1969	606	5,73,045

Himmat Steel Foundry

This large-scale unit falls under the category of "Basic Metal Industries—Ferrous, Rough Casting." The Factory was established at Kumhari in the year, 1963 and went into production from January, 1964. In the year of establishment the fixed and working capital was Rs. 26,18,000 which increased to Rs. 61,47,000 in 1965. The factory employs on an average 341 workers daily. This was the first steel casting unit in private sector in the State. Major part of the products is taken up by the Bhilai Steel Plant. The value of products in the year 1964 (January to October) was Rs. 11,00,000 which had increased to Rs. 35,00,000 in the year 1965 (November 1964 to November, 1965).

Cement

Associated Cement Company Ltd. have established one cement manufacturing unit at Jamul In the District. The factory started its manufacturing activities from January, 1965. As on 31st July, 1965, total investment in this factory was reported to be Rs. 550.93 lakhs. The existing capacity of the works is 6.40 lakhs tonnes. On an average 380 workers are daily employed at the Works. Marketing zone of this factory is fixed by the Cement Allocation Coordinating Organisation, Bombay, which includes parts of Madhya Pradesh; Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal States.

Small Scale Industries

Rice Mills

Beginning of the manufacture on a factory basis appears to have been made in the District with rice milling. It was the Indian Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), under which five rice mills in the District were registered as factories in the year 1935. Prior to this there were no factories in the District coming within the purview of the Indian Factories Act. The rice mills were registered under the "seasonal" category of the factories and were employing 18 workers on an average daily.

It was in the year 1948 that a comprehensive factory legislation in the shape of the Factories Act, 1948, was enacted. Under this new Act, in the year 1949, there were 20 rice mills as registered factories. These rice mills on an average employed 310 workers daily. Besides these rice mills, in the year 1949 there were two other registered factories in the District. One of the two was oil and rice mill, and the other was rice, flour and oil mill.

In the year 1951, nineteen units were classified under "Rice Mills" in the list of registered factories, In addition, the registered units under different classification were.—

Classification	No.
Rice and Flour Milling	1
Rice and *Dal* Milling	2
Rice and Oil Milling	3
Rice Oil and Sawing Timber	1
Rice, Oil and *Dal* Milling	2

Thus, besides rice mills proper, there were nine other units in the District in 1951, which combined other manufacturing activities with rice-milling. This is an indication that seasonal nature of rice milling work by itself does not become profitable unless it is on a sufficiently large scale. It is only such rice-mill owners, who purchase paddy on their own account can mill it in a busy and slack seasons. The rice millers working for customers only, have to combine other activities with rice-milling in order to make their business profitable.

Nearly a decade later in the year 1960, the number of units registered under the Factories Act, 1948, against "Rice Milling" industry was 36.. Nine out of these thirty six units were carrying on *dal*, oil and flour milling besides rice-milling. Together these 36 units employed on an average 414 workers daily. Compared to the number of workers in 1949 the increase in employment was only by 95 workers. This shows that even with twice the increase in the number of units, employment was not substantial. In the year 1960 one unit located at Rajndgaon was registered

as a *Murra* factory. But this was reported closed during the year. This unit was, however, not classified under" Rice Milling" industry.

By 1965 the number of registered units under "Rice Milling" industry was 52. This number included 18 units which combined other manufacturing activities with rice-milling. About 11 mills classified under "Rice Milling" industry and included in the total of 52, manufactured *poha* and *murra*. In addition, four units located at Rajnandgaon were separately registered as *murra* factories. Two of these were registered under "Rice Milling" industry as non-power using units, while other two power-using units were classied under industrial classification" Manufacture of Miscellaneous Food Preparation—Others". There was one rice mill among these registered units located at Rajnandgaon working on a co-operative basis.

***Dal* Milling**

In the year 1951 there was one unit as a registered factory engaged exclusively in *dal* milling in the District. By 1961, the number of registered factories under the category of *dal* milling was six. One of these six factories remained closed in the year. Out of the remaining five, two units combined rice and oil milling with *dal* milling. The working factories employed on an average 85 workers daily. In the year 1965 the number of registered units under the industry remained the same as in 1960 with the change that one of the units combined flour-milling with *dal* milling. Exclusive *dal* milling mills which were four in 1960, became three in 1965. The average number of workers employed daily was 65 for all the six working factories.

Oil Mills

As might be seen from the foregoing account of rice and *dal* milling industries, oil manufacturing was usually combined with rice and *dal* milling. There were no separate units as registered factories classified under oil mills industry upto 1960. By 1965, there were only two units as registered oil mills in the District employing on an average 37 workers daily.

Saw Milling

It was not until the comprehensive factory legislation was brought on the Statute Book in the form of the Factories Act, 1948, that the saw milling unit as a factory registered under the Factories Act existed in the District. Thus, there was only one saw milling unit in the District in the list of registered factories for the year 1949. By 1951 the number of units increased to three. All the three units were located at Rajnandgaon.

In the year 1958 the construction activity at Bhilai Steel Plant was in full swing and in this year the number of registered saw mills in the District was 14. Out of these, one factory remained closed during the year. Factories located at Rajnandgaon increased from three in 1951 to eight in 1958. Besides Rajnandgaon the saw milling units were established at Durg and Bhilai. This choice of location

was undoubtedly based on the factor of proximity to the site where there was a demand for the product. Hindusthan Construction Saw Mill and Hindusthan Steel (P) Ltd., Timber Assembly Finishing Shop were amongst the 14 registered units which were located at Bhilai, besides one more unit belonging to a private party. All the 13 working units together employed on an average 450 workers daily. In 1959 the number increased to 15, one of which remained closed during the year. The additional factory was established at Rajnandgaon. In the year 1960, the number had increased to 16. But four out of these 16 units remained closed during the year. Among these closed units two were from Rajnandgaon, one from Durg and one from Bhilai. The fresh unit established in this year was, however, at Rajnandgaon. In the year 1962, the number of registered saw mills came down to 13. One of these located at Rajnandgaon remained closed. Including this closed unit there were 10 units at Rajnandgaon. Two units were located at Bhilai and only one at Durg. As against this, in 1960 there were three units at Durg and three at Bhilai. The number of saw mills in 1963 was 14, one of which remained closed during the year. Including the closed unit, Rajnandgaon had 11 saw milling units, two units were at Bhilai and one at Durg. In the year 1964 there were 11 registered units. The Hindusthan Steel Ltd., Timber Assembly Finishing Shop was deleted from the classification as "Saw Mills". This factory was classified under "Manufacture of Iron and Steel" from 1964. From amongst the 11 units, nine were at Rajnandgaon, one at Bhilai and one at Durg. In the year 1965 the number of saw mills increased to 16, twelve of which were at Rajnandgaon, two at Bhilai, one at Durg and one at Dongargarh. All these saw mills employed on an average 400 workers daily. Details about some of the saw mills are as under.--

Hind Saw Mill

This saw mill was established at Durg in the year 1956. The investment in the year of establishment was Rs. 30,000, which increased to Rs. 2,29,500 in the year 1965. The Mill provided employment to 14 workers daily on an average. The value of production which was Rs. 90,000 in the year 1956-57 increased to Rs. 7,70,961 in 1964-65. It was reported that the demand for saw mill products was considerable upto 1965 from Bhilai Steel Plant. In the year 1966 the demand from the Plant had totally stopped and there was no demand from other sources inside the District.

Bharat Timber Company

This saw mill was established at Rajnandgaon in the year 1962 Investment in the year of establishment was Rs. 1 lakh. By 1965 this had increased to Rs. 5,10,128. The Mill employed on an average 23 workers daily. The value of the product in the year 1962 was Rs. 2,82,517 which had increased to Rs. 5,26,207 in the year 1965. Forest Department's standing tree coupes were purchased to get timber logs. The Mill exports the saw mill products mainly to Calcutta. Products are also sent to Madras, Gujarat and Mysore. No local demand was reported.

Hind Construction Co. Saw Mill

This Mill was established to provide material for construction work of the company at Bhilai, along with other units of the company set up for the purpose. This unit provided employment to about 48 workers daily in the year 1965.

Bidi Making

The units under this industry came to be registered under the Factories Act when 1948 factory legislation was brought on the Statute Book. Prior to this bidi making units used to be registered under the Central Provinces and Berar Unregulated Factories Act, 1934.

The number of bidi-making units registered as factories under the Factories Act. 1948 was 20 as per list of registered factories for the year 1951. Just like saw milling, bidi-making was also concentrated at Rajnandgaon. Durg proper had only four units out of these 20. In the year 1958, the number of units increased to 32, but number at Durg remained four as in 1951. In the year 1960, there were 29 factories in the District, out of which seven remained closed during the year. In 1965 the number of factories was 13 only, out of which 3 remained closed during the year. The reason for this decline in the number of units may be the opening up of alternative opportunities of employment in and around Bhilai Steel Plant and the rising rates of wages in the industry from time to time making the working of factories less profitable for the owners. The working factories employed on an average 700 workers daily.

Harra Breaking

The number of units in this industry in the year 1951 was three. Two of these were at Rajnandgaon and one at Dongargarh. In the year 1958, there were four factories in this group. In 1960 there were five units but four of these were reported closed during the year. In 1965 there remained only three registered units under this industry.

Bricks and Tiles

According to the list of registered factories for 1958, there was one bricks and tiles manufacturing unit in the District. This factory was located at Bhilai. The list of 1962 registered factories shows this unit as closed during that year. Instead, there was a Refractory Materials Plant working at Bhilai under this industry, employing on an average 190 workers daily. Even upto 1965 there was no increase in the number of units under this industry. The one unit in the private ownership remained closed in 1965, while Refractory Materials Plant was reclassified under "Basic Metal Industries-Manufacture of Iron and Steel". This illustrates that fresh units that were established under different industries in the District were either part of the bigger Bhilai Steel Plant complex, or such units as were either ancillaries or subsidiaries of the Plant.

Stone Dressing and Crushing

There was no factory registered under this industry in the year 1958 and 1959. In 1960, however, one factory was registered under this industry. The factory was set up at Durg by a private party. In the year 1965 the number increased to three, one of which being Hindustan Construction Crushing and Batching Plant located at Bhilai. There was one more unit at Bhilai under private ownership. The earlier unit working at Durg was shifted to village Jaora.

Hindusthan Construction Batching and Crushing Plant was established in the year 1962 at Bhilai. The investment in this Unit of the Company was Rs. 2,71,646 as in the year 1965. The number of workers employed daily was 63.

Chemical Products

As early as in the year 1954, there was one unit in the list of registered factories under this industrial category. The Unit was Chhattisgarh Bone Mill located at Kumhari in the District and was manufacturing artificial manuers. By 1965 the number of factories in this category increased to two, both located at Kumhari. One of these units viz., Dharmsi Morarji Chemical Co., is a large scale unit dealt with earlier. Another unit, Indian Alum Industries, is located at the Industrial Estate, Bhilai, and manufactures industrial alum. This Unit employs on an average 37 workers daily and was established in the year 1960.

Printing Press

It was under the Factories Act of 1948, that the Printing Press at Rajnandgaon was registered as the Government Branch Press. It was established in the year 1949 amalgamating the press establishments of the former Chhattisgarh States of Baikunthpur, Bastar, Kanker and Surguja, consequent upon the merger of the princely states in the erstwhile Madhya Pradesh. It was treated as a branch of the Nagpur Government Press. Since reorganisation of the State, in the year 1956, the administrative control of the Press at Rajnandgaon vests with the Superintendent, Government Printing, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

From the year 1949 till 31st October, 1956 the Press was printing non--scheduled forms which form part of the stationery requirements of the Government administrative departments, but after reorganization of the State, this Press is printing 13 scheduled forms. In the year 1949, the capital investment of the Press was only Rs. 60,500 By 1965 investment increased to Rs. 4,16,600. The Press employs on an average 88 workers daily. The value of work done was.—

Year	Value Rs.
1952-53	82,500
1955-56	1,28,000
1956-57	1,54,500
1959-60	5,14,000

1			2
1961-62	..	..	7,48,500
1963-64	..	..	7,56,800
1964-65	..	..	8,20,400
1965-66	..	..	3,34,113
1966-67	..	..	3,15,595
1967-68	..	..	3,44,345
1968-69	..	..	3,51,694
1969-70	..	..	3,17,030

There were no other printing presses in the District upto 1965, as factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948.

General And Jobbing Engineering

There was not a single unit as a registered factory under this industry in 1958. In 1959 the number increased to seven. Out of these, one belonged to Hindusthan Construction Company, three to Hindusthan Steel Units under the Bhilai Steel Plant Complex, and three others. In 1960, the number remained the same. In 1962, the number increased to elevan. Out of these, two were Hindusthan Construction Company's units, five units belonged to Hindusthan Steel Co., one of which was Training Shop of Bhilai Technical Institute. One unit belonged to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board. Three remaining units were under private ownership. In the year 1963, this number increased to thirteen. The increase was due to additional two units of Hindusthan Construction under this category. In the year 1964, all the units under this category belonging to Hindusthan Steel were reclassified under the manufacture of "Basic Metals". Therefore, the registered factories under this category declined to eight, out of which four belonged to Hindusthan Construction, one to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board and three to private parties. In 1965, the number had increased to a dozen units. Six of these units belonged to private parties, five to Hindusthan Construction and one to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board.

Transport Equipment

In this category, there was only one private ownership unit as a registered factory in the year 1958 located at Durg, under "Repairs of Motor Vehicles", etc. In 1959 Hindusthan Steel (Bhilai Steel Project Garage) located at Bhilai was added, making a total of two registered factories. In 1960, the number remained the same. In the year 1962 two Bhilai Steel Plant Complex Units were registered as factories under "Manufacture and Repair of Rail, Road Equipments" viz., Loco and Wagon Repairs Shop and Line Repairs Shop, both located at Bhilai. Under the category of "Repairs of Motor Vehicles", the number increased to five, two of which belonged to Bhilai Steel Complex, and three others. Total number of registered factories under "Transport Equipment" was thus

seven in 1962. In next year the number increased to eight. One additional unit was in the category of "Repairs of Motor Vehicles" and the unit belonged to Hindustan Construction. In 1964 only four units remained as registered factories in this industry of "Transport Equipment". One of these belonged to Hindusthan Construction and there were three others. All other units under Bhilai Steel Project were reclassified under "Manufacture of Basic Metals." In 1965 there were five units as registered factories under "Repairs of Motor Vehicles." Addition of one more over that of the previous year was a privately owned unit.

It is worth noting that as per list of registered factories for the year 1951, there was not a single registered factory working under the different industries like non-metallic mineral products, basic metal, manufacture of metal products, manufacture of machinery, transport, etc., as per classification adopted for registration of factories under the Factories Act, 1948. It may, however, be pointed out here that many of the registered factories coming under these industrial categories are actually different departments of the Bhilai Steel Plant. Hence these departments registered separately as factories are not so many additional and separate units but parts of the bigger plant. These different departments or workshops were classified separately under different industrial classes upto 1963, but thereafter generally all were grouped under the classification of "Basic Metal Industries." Under the "Saw Milling" industry, for example, a reference has been made to the Hindustan Steel (P) Ltd., Timber Assembly Finishing Shop because in earlier lists of the registered factories it was classified under "Saw Milling", but in later lists i.e., from 1964 it was grouped under "Basic Metal Industries" being only a part of the Bhilai Steel Complex. Whatever other units that have been set up even by private parties are in the nature of ancillary and subsidiary industries of Bhilai Steel Plant.

Basic Metal Industries

Besides two Bhilai Plant units, one Apeejay Private Ltd., Steel Rolling Mills, located at Kumhari, was registered under this industry as per list of registered factories, 1962. In 1963 the number of factories, under private sector, increased by the addition of one more factory also at Kumhari. This was Garg Steel Rolling Mills. In 1964, besides the above two units at Kumhari one more factory was registered under the Factories Act, 1948, viz., M.P. Iron and Steel Co. Private Ltd. This was located at Bhilai proper. In this year, the Bhilai Steel Plant units classified separately under different industries were brought under this class. The number of units which was only two upto 1963, had, therefore, increased to 24. In 1965 the number of such units increased to 28. Number of other units, however, remained three. These three units were engaged in rolling the metal into basic forms. One of these three factories viz. M. P. Iron and Steel Co. Private Ltd., is located at the Industrial Estate, Bhilai. This factory manufactures iron bars, angles, flats, rods etc. It was established in the year 1960 and employed on an average 28 workers daily.

Ganga Steel Re-Rolling Mill is another factory which manufactures angles, iron rounds, M. S. Rods, etc. It was established in the year 1961 at Kumhari and employed on an average 48 workers daily.

The third factory has been dealt with as a large scale unit.

Under the category of Rough Casting of metal, one Steel Plant Unit i.e., Blast Furnaces and Sintering Plant was registered as a factory as per 1962 list of factories. Bhilai Engineering Corporation Private Ltd., and Simplex Engineering Foundry Works, both located at Bhilai, were other two units registered as factories in 1962 list. One other Steel Plant Unit in this year viz., Foundry Pattern shop was registered under "Non-Ferrous Metals, Rolling into Basic Forms". In the year 1963 the number of units remained as above. In 1964 there remained only two privately owned units as registered factories under "Rough Casting" of metals. Blast Furnaces and Foundry Pattern Shop were reclassified under "Manufacture of Iron and Steel." In 1965, besides these two privately owned factories, other two units added to the list of registered factories, were Himmat Steel Foundry located at Kumhari and Primans Industries located at Industrial Estate, Bhilai. Thus under the "Rough Casting" of metal there were four registered factories in the year 1965.

Bhilai Engineering Corporation Ltd., located at Bhilai was established in the year 1961. The Unit manufactures castings and accessories for fire-fighters, etc. The Unit employs on an average 41 workers daily.

Primans Industries is another unit in this industry and is located at Industrial Estate, Bhilai. It was established in the year 1961. This factory manufactures rain-water pipes, soil pipes, pipe fittings, sanitary goods, frames, etc. On an average 52 workers are employed daily by this Unit.

Simplex Engineering and Foundry Works is yet another unit in this industry and is located at Bhilai.

The fourth unit in this industry viz., Himmat Steel Foundry is dealt with under large-scale industries.

Metal Products

In the year 1958, there were two registered factories classified under this category. One of these was Hindusthan Construction Company's Plant Repair Shop and another was Hindusthan Steel Base Repair Shop. In the year 1959 the classification was changed. These two units were classified under the category of "Manufacturing of Machinery, General and Jobbing Engineering". Thus, under the Metal Products category there were no units registered under the Factories Act even in 1965.

The position regarding factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948,

as in the year 1965, in addition to those classified under the industrial categories as above was.—

Classification	No. of units
Gas Manufacture and Distribution	1
Chemical and Chemical Products	2
Manufacture of Cement	1
Electric Light and Power	1
Water Supply	1
Manufacture of Dairy Products	1
Manufacture of Bakery Products	1

As against the number of factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948 totalling 106 in the year 1958, the number in 1965 was 163.

In addition to the number of factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948, under different industries there were 20 other units not registered under the Act. These units were located either at Bhilai or Durg. Some of these were established at the Industrial Estate Bhilai. These units manufactured castings, steel furniture, bolts, nuts, rivets, screws, spare parts for rolling mills, automobile parts, leather gloves, etc. These factories are categorized as ancillary and subsidiary industries of the Bhilai Steel Plant.

The factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948 as well as ancillary and subsidiary industries around the Steel Plant at Bhilai do not exhaust the whole field of industrial activities in the District. There are a number of small-scale units not coming within the purview of the Factories Act but are working under different industries in the District. Some of the important industrial activities were for example the manufacture of agricultural equipment in which 3 units were registered with the Director of Industries in the year 1964. These units employed a total of 18 workers. There were 4 cold-storage units providing employment to 31 workers. There were 5 units manufacturing aluminium and non-ferrous metal utensils employing on an average 156 workers together. Manufacture of optical frames and lenses, retrading and vulcanising of tyres and tubes and electrical goods were some other prominent industrial activities carried on in a number of small-scale units in the District.

Cottage Industries and Industrial Cooperatives

Cottage industry is essentially a household industry which is conducted by the head of the household himself and / or mainly by members of the household at home or within the village in rural and only at home in urban areas. Data regarding household industries on the above basis, collected at the time of 1961 Census are presented below.—

Sub-Division	No. of persons
Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	
Field Produce and Plantation Crops	7
Forestry and Logging	63
Fishing	11
Livestock and Hunting	2,173
Mining and Quarrying	1
Manufacturing	
Foodstuffs	4,607
Beverages	106
Tobacco Products	1,942
Textile Cotton	6,932
Textile Wool	626
Textile Silk	2
Textile Miscellaneous	2,408
Manufacture of Wood and Wooden Products	3,941
Paper and Paper Products	5
Leather and Leather Products	1 898
Chemicals and Chemical Products	339
Non-Metallic Mineral Products other than Petroleum and Coal	4,073
Basic Metals and their Products except Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,548
Machinery (all kinds other than Transport) and Electrical Equipment	187
Transport Equipment	457
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	1,513

The traditional pattern of cottage industries becomes manifest from the employment under different industrial sub-divisions. The cotton-textile division provided largest employment i.e.. 6,932 under cottage industries. Next to this comes the industries manufacturing foodstuff, which provided employment to 4,607 persons. Non-metallic mineral products and manufacture of wood and wooden products follow in the descending order of providing employment.

Mention may also be made here of one of the traditional cottage industry viz., gold and silver smithy. The gold and silver ornament-making industry in the District as everywhere in the Country received a set-back on account of the promulgation of the Gold Control Order, 1963. A total of 813 goldsmiths in the District were affected by the implementation of this order. As in the year 1965, the financial assistance given to the goldsmiths thus affected amounted to Rs. 1,90,350. There were 456 goldsmiths who had applied for licenses required under the Gold Control Order to carry on their industry.

It may, however, be borne in mind that cottage industries in the under-developed economic conditions are not important from the standpoint of pro-

viding full-time employment to the unemployed population. Their importance inrural economy, much more than in urban, depends on the fact that these industries provide spare-time occupation to the partially and seasonally unemployed and thereby increase the income and overall productivity of the population engaged in agricultural and allied pursuits. Many important cottage industries like handloom-weaving, manufacturing of leather goods, making of wooden products, etc., which were declining because of competition with the large-scale factory industries, have to be sustained. This was done by introducing co-operative movement in the field of different cottage industries manufacturing activities.

The extent of the co-operative activities in the field of cottage industries can be seen from the fact that there were 16 Weavers' Societies in the District with a membership of 8,443 in the year 1965-66. Share capital of these societies was Rs. 1,59,534. The number of handlooms and powerlooms with these societies, was 357 and 6 respectively.

The number of co-operatives in oil manufacturing industry in the same year was 18 with a membership of 367. The share capital of these societies amounted to Rs. 19,372. There were 34 co-operative societies with a membership of 771 in paddy-husking. Share capital of these societies was Rs. 23,221. In leather goods manufacturing industry there were 8 societies with 112 members and share capital of Rs. 5,524. Manufacturing of wooden products had four societies with 66 members and a share-capital of Rs 4,950. Cane and bamboo workers were organized in 6 societies. Membership of these was 87 with a share capital of Rs. 1,470. Making of bricks and tiles had 15 co-operative societies with a membership of 314 and a share capital of Rs. 10,149. In soap-making there were 7 societies with a membership of 94 and a share capital of Rs. 1,908. There were 2 metal workers societies with a membership of 203 and a share capital of Rs. 25,649. Three societies of tailors had a membership of 61 and a share capital of Rs. 1,525. *Tad-gur* and *poha-murmura* industries had one society each with a membership of 20 and 18. respectively, Share capital of *tad-gur* Society was Rs. 260 and that of *poha-murmura* manufacturing society was Rs. 2,000.

It may thus be seen that practically the whole field of cottage industries was brought under the co-operative fold giving the cottage industries sector a new lease of life to play its role effectively in the economy of the District.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

With the establishment of the Steel Plant at Bhilai in the District and its successful working to the originally installed and later expanded capacities, the emphasis regarding potentialities of industrial development in the District has greatly shifted from untapped natural resources in the shape of industrial materials from agriculture, forest produce, livestock products, mineral products, etc., to the utilization of huge quantities of the variety of by-products accumulating as a result of the working of the Steel Plant. This, however, does not mean that

potentialities of the resource-based industries in the District have been exhausted. As a matter of fact iron and steel and cement manufacture are the only resource based industries in the District working in the shape of Bhilai Steel Plant and A. C. C. Works at Jamul. But the infra-structure that has been built up in order to establish the Steel Plant, now makes it not only possible but incumbent to establish other resource-based industries and by-products utilization industries to effect economy in over-head costs involved in the creation of the infra-structure.

Resource-Based Industries

Agriculture

The District is virtually littered with hundreds of rice mills, on account of its being a predominantly paddy - growing area. The rice bran which constitutes an essential raw-material in the manufacture of rice-bran-oil is available in plenty. But a sizeable quantity of rice bran is simply being utilized as a cattle feed. The rice bran oil is edible and can be used for hydrogenation and also for the manufacture of soap stick. The National Council of Applied Economic Research in their Techno-Economic Survey of Madhya Pradesh have recommended the establishment of at least 40 units, each having a capacity of 25 tons a day in the rice growing areas including Durg District. Ad-Hoc Committee on Rice-Bran Oil industry regarded 25 tons a day per plant as minimum economic unit.

Forests

In spite of the fact that a large quantity of timber is being procured from the forests of Durg for sawing and export, there are no wood seasoning and timber treatment facilities in the area. Importance of seasoned wood for utilization in the making of quality furniture, building construction activities, etc., cannot be minimized. The National council of Applied Economic Research in their Techno-Economic Survey have suggested four wood seasoning plants for the whole of Madhya Pradesh. One such plant can be established at Rajnandgaon in the District which is the centre of saw-milling industry. Small-scale units for manufacture of stationery articles like pin-cushions, ink-stands, black-board and other wooden products like coat-hangers, pegs, bag-handles. wooden spoons, etc., can also be profitably established in the District.

Live-Stock

The recommendation of the Techno-Economic Survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research in this respect was for the establishment of one chrome tannery unit for Durg-Raipur-Bilaspur area. This can now be conveniently located in Durg District. Besides the tanning unit, small bone-crusing units can also be set up at different places in the District.

Next to these resource-based industries it is the colossus of the Bhilai Steel Plant which offers a nucleus of huge potentialities for future industrial develop-

ment of the District. The Bhilai Steel Project was planned is such an integrated way as to make a provision for setting-up of a number of ancillary and repair shops within its premises to enable the ready availability of services when called for. This, self-contained and complementary pattern on Soviet lines does not make room for external growth of ancillary, feeder and servicing industries to cater to the constant requirements of the Steel Plant both for operation and maintenance. Notwithstanding the fact, some scope for the manufacture of a number of items having a continuous and repetitive demand from the Steel Project exists provided the technical standards set by the Project authorities are met. Amongst such ancillary industries may be listed the manufacture of

1. Industrial Hand-Gloves (leather and canvas),
2. Industrial Fasteners,
3. Wire Nails,
4. Leather Boots,
5. Hand Tools and Small Tools.

Such ancillary industrial units can be set up on small-scale or on cottage basis which will help not only to ensure greater economy but also to generate a greater volume of employment.

Utilization of By-Products

This is the greatest source of potential industries in the District. These may be classified under six industrial groups as under.

Organic Dyes and Intermediaries

From the by-products of Benzol Rectification and Tar Distillation Plants, aniline dyes and anthraquinone dyes can be manufactured. By 1970-71 the demand for dye-stuff is being expected to increase to 16,000 tons. By-products of Benzol Rectification Plant like benzene, toluene and xylene are utilized in the manufacture of aniline dyes; while anthraquinone dyes are manufactured from the by-products of Tar Distillation Plant.

Synthetic Fibres, Plastics and Plasticizing Materials

By-products of Benzol Rectification Plant can be utilized in the manufacture of synthetic fibres like dacron, nylon and poly-styrene. Demand for such fibres is increasing in the Country. The main ingredient for manufacture of nylon is adipic acid which is manufactured from benzene. A plant with capacity of 3.000 tonnes/annum located around Bhilai was considered suitable.

By-products like formaldelyde plus urea from Coke-Oven and Blast Furnace gases can be utilized in the manufacture of urea formaldelyde resin. Similarly, formaldelyde plus phenomal as by-products of Tar Distillation Plant can be

utilized in the manufacture of phenol-formaldelyde resin. Synthetic resins can be manufactured from heavy naptha, a by-product of Benzol Rectification Plant.

Drugs and Pharmaceuticals including Antiseptics

The by-products of Benzol Rectification Plant such as aniline and toluene can be utilized for the manufacture of quinone/phenyl hydrazine and benzol dehyde/toluene and sulphonic acid. Similarly, salicylate, cresylic acid and phenol (carbolic acid) can be manufactured from phenol and crude carbolic acid, which are the by-products of Tar Distillation Plant.

Insecticides, Wood Preservatives - Pesticides

Here again different by-products from Tar Distillation Plant and Benzol Rectification Plant can be used in the manufacture of cresols, napthalene (moth balls, flakes etc.) salicylic acid, chloro benzene (D. D. T./B. D. C.), etc.

Explosives and Military Gases

By-products of Tar Distillation Plant like phenol, crude napthalene and toluene from Benzol Rectification Plant may be used in the manufacture of explosives, gases, etc.

Other Products

Fertilizers (Urea/Ammon-Nitrate) can be manufactured from coke-oven and Blast-Furnace gases. Paints and varnishes, electrodes and foundry-coke can be manufactured from the by-products of Tar Distillation Plant. Slag cement from Blast Furnace slag and slag-lime brick from Blast-Furnace/Open-hearth-Slag.

From the enumeration of the potentialities of industrial development as above, it may be stated that while establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant has set the ball rolling, it has to be carried a long way towards the goal of industrial development, in view of the vast unexploited resources awaiting exploitation.

Industrial Estates

Exploitation of the industrial potentialities of the District is being facilitated by setting up industrial estates, rural work-sheds and industrial areas in the District. Industrial estates enable a number of small units to have the advantage of common services and other facilities such as a good site, electricity, water, gas, steam, compressed air, railway sidings, watch and ward, etc. With this object in view construction of Industrial Estate was started at Durg in the District during the Second Five Year Plan period. However, as the work could not be completed before the end of 1960-61, it was included as spill - over work during the Third Five Year Plan period. Development of 42.40 acres of land was undertaken and plots and sheds were allotted to some parties. By January, 1967 construction work of five sheds at Industrial Estate, Durg was completed by Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam and finishing work such as painting and washing was in

progress. Out of the administrative approval of Rs. 1,85,000 for construction of these five sheds Rs. 1,52,966 were spent by January, 1967. Total development/construction costs was estimated at Rs. 5.10 lakhs.

In addition to the Industrial Estate at Durg in the Third Five Year Plan against the Expansion of Industrial Estates, a proposal for expansion of Industrial Estate at Bhilai was included. In view of the great demand for more blocks, expansion programme was considered necessary. The target fixed for the year 1965-66 of the Third Five Year Plan was the construction of roads and drains, laying of sewage line on main roads and laying of garden. This work was completed and an amount of Rs. 8.88 lakhs was spent on the Scheme. Execution of this work was given to Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam. An area of 220.54 acres was acquired at a cost of about Rs. 3.50 lakhs. Work regarding construction of Filtration Plant and laying of internal distributary mains was in an advanced stage of completion at a cost of Rs. 11 lakhs in the year 1966-67. Following factories were located in the Industrial Estate Bhilai—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Factory	Investment
1. M/s. Bharat Industrial Works	7
2. ,, M.P. Iron and Steel Works	10
3. ,, Primans Industries	2
4. ,, Indian Alum Industries	2
5. ,, Bhilai Engineering Works	0.50
6. ,, Saraswati Association Ltd.	1
7. ,, Lalit Industries	0.30
8. ,, Apex Engineering Works	2.50
9. ,, Kambo Mechanical Works	0.30
10. ,, Bhilai Cement Pipe Manufacturing Co.	1.22
11. ,, B. K. Engineering Corporation	4
12. ,, Astar Leather Products	0.25

Government also took up the Scheme for preparation of an Industrial Area near Bhilai. The Scheme is divided in two parts viz., Industrial Housing Area and Light Industries Area.

For Industrial Housing an area of 511 acres was acquired for construction of labour tenements by the Housing Board and for allotment of developed plots to supervisory and managerial staff employed in the factory establishments in the Industrial Estate Area, Bhilai. By 1966-67, 312 labour tenements were constructed by the Housing Board under Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme and were allotted to industrial units. Development of land was almost completed in the area at the cost of Rs. 11 lakhs.

For Light Industries an area of about 450 acres of land was acquired opposite the existing Industrial Estate on the eastern side. An amount of Rs. 17 lakhs was paid to the tenants as compensation. Estimates of Rs. 14.20 lakhs were approved by the State Government for laying of roads, drains, etc. Provision was made for laying of railway line in the area for facilitating transportation of raw materials required and finished products manufactured by the different industries.

The Third Five Year Plan also contained a proposal for setting up of Industrial Estate at Rajnandgaon. The Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam had an administrative approval of Rs. 1,80,000. By January, 1967 with an expenditure of Rs. 1,69,082 the construction of five sheds at Rajnandgaon was completed and painting, washing, etc., along with the development of 20 acres of land, was in progress.

At Dongargaon in the District construction of one Work-Shed was completed by the Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam with an expenditure of Rs. 26,492. At Balod in the District construction of Work-shed was also in progress.

All these activities indicate that measures are being taken by the Government to promote industrial development of the District by utilization of potentialities in that respect.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS

An account of the industries working on a factory-basis prior to the establishment of the Bhilai Steel Plant given earlier in this Chapter shows that rice-milling, saw-milling, bidi-making and textiles were the main industries in the District working on a factory basis. Rice-milling and saw-milling are generally working on a seasonal basis, the workers in which are mainly drawn from agriculture. As a matter of fact, there is no regular working population attached to these industries and as such trade unionism in these industries is non-existent. The case of the bidi-making industry is rather different, the workers in this industry are also usually drawn from agriculture. The difference lies in the fact that bidi-making offers regular, all-the-year-round employment to its workers. The nature of work is less strenuous as compared to that in other idustries and articulture. Besides this, the piece-work wage-rates generally prevalent in this industry offer scope for higher earnings to the workers as compared to other industries. Because of these differences, trade unionist activities found scope in this industry.

The workers in the textile mill at Rajnandgaon were organized in a trade union as early as in 1938. Even now, in the changed and changing industrial climate in the District due to the establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant, there are no trade union activities in the rice-milling, saw-milling and such other agricultural product-based industries. After the establishment of the Bhilai Steel Complex, trade unionism has flourished in practically all the different industries that are coming up on the scene.

In the year 1966, there were 32 trade unions registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. The earliest among these was the Union of textile workers at Rajnandgaon registered in the year 1938. There were three bidi-workers' unions in the District, earliest of which was registered in the year 1955. The other two were registered in 1961 and 1965, respectively. Steel industry had seven trade unions, the earliest to be registered in the year 1956. This union had a membership of 14,664 in the year 1966. There were three unions of workers in the mines. Chemical and cement manufacturing industries had one union each. There was a union of workers in engineering. The workers in the Government Regional Press had also organized themselves in a trade union, which was registered in the year 1964. It had a membership of 36 in the year 1966. A reference to the *murra-poha* manufacturing units has been made in the section of small-scale industries. There was one union of workers in these factories which was registered in the year 1961. There were two automobile workers' unions registered under the Act. Workers in the electricity generation and distribution had also their union registered in the year 1964.

Apart from the trade unions in different industries as described above. there were five trade unions of the workers in different municipalities in the District. There was a union each, of the Bhilai Steel Plant medical and health employees and Plant Laboratory workers. There were two unions of weighing-men working in grain-markets.

There was no organization of employers in the District, but the merchants at Bhilai had their association registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the year 1959.

WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

From an account of the trade unions given above, the trade union activities in the District appear to have flourished only after the establishment of steel industry. Different industries like chemical, engineering, cement, had their different unions. All these different trade unions function in watch and ward capacities to safeguard wages and working conditions in their respective industries. No welfare activities are reported to have been undertaken by these trade unions for their workers. Welfare activities, therefore, remain confined to the statutory and voluntary activities undertaken by the enlightened employers for their workers.

Among the welfare enactments there are those enacted by the Central Government and those by the State Government.

The Factories Act 1948, which is a Central legislation, contains provision for the safety and welfare of workers like fencing of machinery to prevent accidents, cleanliness of the factory premises, construction of creche for the children of working women, rest and dining-sheds, canteens, etc. While some of these provisions are applicable to all the registered factories, some others like provision

of canteens etc., are applicable to such factories as employ not less than a certain specified number of workers.

Prominent amongst Central Government's enactments in the field of social welfare are the Employees' State Insturance Act, 1948 and the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952.

Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Scheme framed thereunder are applicable to all non-seasonal factories using power, wherein 20 or more persons work. All employees employed directly or through an immediate employer on any work of the factory whether in a manual or non-manual capacity on a remuneration not exceeding Rs. 400 per month are covered by this Act and the Scheme. The Scheme provided at present for medical care for the insured persons and for their families. It was made applicable to Rajnandgaon centre in the year 1960. Besides medical care, sickness, maternity, disablement and dependents benefits are given. Thus, there are two categories of benefits viz., cash and medical which are given under the Scheme. The details regarding working of the Scheme in both these aspects were as under.

Medical Benefits

Year	Insured Persons			Families of Insured Persons		
	New	Old	Tlotal	New	Old	Total
1960	1,499	7,662	9,161	138	161	299
1961	9.200	42,507	51,707	9,841	26,586	36,427
1962	10,248	52,698	62,946	10,323	25,769	36,092
1963	4,019	22,533	26,552	6,476	16,622	23,098
1964	5,566	24,190	29,756	7,746	19 754	27.500
1965	6,310	34,730	41,040	7.520	21,058	28,578
1966	7,177	38,488	45,665	10.592	2[illegible],638	38,230

Note—The data regarding medical benefits refer to 12 establishments upto the year 1963 and 11 establishments from 1964 to 1966.

Cash Benefits

(In Rs.)

Year	No. of employees	Temporary Disablement Benefit	Sickness Benefit	Extended Sickness Benefit	Maternity Benefit	Permanent Partial Disablement Benefit	Dependents Benefit
1960-61	3.569	1.846.80	—	—	—	—	—
1961-62	5,931	9,970.81	48,782.21	—	3,538.47	123.58	—
1962-63	3.500	6,842.69	62,015.00	517.34	4,119.46	684 09	—
1963-64	3,500	899.54	19,177.44	8,188.34	1,144.48	3,170.27	1,487.50
1964-65	3.500	10,382.76	21,048.46	136.44	225.00	797.66	985.00
1965-66	3,500	12,260.19	40,518.95	802.50	1,755.00	1,166.79	1,067.74
1967-68	4,308	8.539.24	67,256.47	19,417.16	5,841.60	17,423.57	1,297.76
1968-69	4 605	12,161 20	57.253.27	21,592.93	4,791.49	42,882.43	730.77
1969-70	4,398	17.510.39	82.050.75	23,105.48	8,178.80	23,145.96	673.09

Another Central legislation in the sphere of labour welfare was the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952. The Scheme framed under this Act came into force in its entirety with effect from 1st, November, 1952. The Act was made applicable to different industries in stages. It applies to all establishments employing 20 or more persons in the industries specified. The rate of contribution is 6¼ per cent of pay i.e., basic wages plus dearness allowance, including cash value of food concession and retaining allowance, if any. The statutory rate of provident fund contribution has been enhanced to 8 per cent of pay in respect of the establishments employing 50 or more persons engaged in the specified industries. Such of the employees, whose basic wage, dearness allowance, cash value of food concessions and retaining allowanc, if any, do not exceed Rs. 1,000 per month, and who have put in one year's continuous service or 240 days' actual work during the period of 12 months or less can become the member of the Fund.

There were 46 establishments from different industries like rice-milling, saw-milling, transport, printing press, iron and steel, chemicals, cement, electricity generation and distribution, cinemas, etc, covered under the Employees' Provident Fund Act in the District in the year 1966.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 is yet another Central legislation. wich is administered by the State Governments by appoining Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation. The Act imposes an obligation upon employers to pay compensation to workers for accidents arising out of and in the course of employment. resulting in death or total or partial disablement. Compensation is also payable for some occupational diseases. In areas in which the Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been implemented, the payment of workmen's compensation is the responsibility of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. As a result of the administration of the Act an amount of Rs. 1,38,778.96 was paid as compensation to the dependents of the deceased for the years 1962 and 1963. For the same two years, compensation paid on account of permanent disablement amounted to Rs. 4,333.75. For subsequent years the compensation figures were.—

(In Rs.)

Year	For dependents of the deceased	For permanent disablement
1964	1,28,807	7,798.63
1965	1,17,622	18,637.47
1966	2,70,256.33	67,953.35

The amounts of compensation refer to the industries and the workers in industries as are not covered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

There is a State Government legislation viz., Madhya Pradesh Maternity Benefit Act, 1958 providing for payment of cash maternity benefit for certain period before and after confinement, a grant of leave and certain other facilities

to women employees in factories. Under the Act the period of bebefit is 12 weeks, and there is a provision for payment of a medical bonus of Rs. 10 to women workers on maternity leave if no pre-natal or post-natal care of approved type is provided by the employer or under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. Details regarding the number of factories falling within the purview of the Act and the amounts paid as maternity benefits from 1960 to 1969 were as under.—

Year	No. of Factories	No. of Cases	Amount of Benefits Rs.
1960	117	4	471
1961	115	4	527
1962	135	28	866
1963	148	14	631
1964	140	12	764
1965	158	21	5110
1966	174	6	473
1967	174	4	635
1968	170	Nil	Nil
1969	102	Nil	Nil

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 a Central Government legislation—empowered the State Government to fix minimum rates of wages payable to the employees in the Scheduled employments. Prior to 1962 the minimum wages were fixed under the Central Act. In 1962, however, the State Government enacted Madhya Pradesh Minimum Wages Fixation Act, 1962. The minimum rates of wages fixed for certain Scheduled Industries and later revised as in the year 1959 under the Central Act, were deemed to be fixed under the Madhya Pradesh Minimum Wages Fixation Act, 1962. Some of the Scheduled Industries for which minimum wage-rates were fixed in the State were Rice, Flour and *Dal* milling, Tobacco (including bidi-making), Oil manufacturing, Local Authorities, Construction or Maintenance of Roads or Building Operations, Stone-Breaking and Stone-Crushing, Public Motor Transport, Printing Presses and Agriculture. While revised minimum wages fixed for different Scheduled Industries remain in force, in the year 1966 there was a further revision of minimum wages in case of bidi-making industry. Durg District was classified under Zone II for purposes of revision of wage-rates and the earlier rate of Rs. 1.62 per 1,000 bidis was revised to Rs. 2.20 per thousand in 1966. Similar upward revision was also made in the salaries of monthly paid staff in the industry.

The State Government under the Labour Department are running a Labour Welfare Centre at Rajnandgaon in the District. The activities at this Centre include facilities for indoor and outdoor games, library and reading room. Adult education classes are also being conducted at this Centre for industrial workers.

The Labour Welfare provisions under the different Central and State Government enactments detailed above are applicable to all the different industries and factory establishments under those industries. However, in addition to these statutory welfare facilities, employers in certain factory establishments have their own schemes of Labour Welfare. As a matter of fact in certain labour welfare enactments like Employees' Provident Fund Act, Minimum Wages Act, etc., there are provisions for exemption from the statutory provisions, to such of the factory establishments as provide similar or better facilities to their workers than those provided under the Acts.

The place of prime importance in the sphere of voluntary Labour Welfare facilities in the District obviously belongs to the Management of the Bhilai Steel Plant. The Management have undertaken manifold welfare activities for their workers, ever since the construction stage of the Plant.

Housing

Thousands of workers working in the Plant have to be provided with residential facilities. Therefore, construction of 10,700 permanent quarters was sanctioned for Bhilai Nagar Township. By the time construction phase of one million ton capacity plant was over about 6,000 quarters were ready. By 1966, the Bhilai Township occupied an area of 20.48 sq. km. and accommodation in the Township was 18,363 tenements. Amenities like the shopping centres, the cinema theatres and clubs are also provided in the Township. As the construction work for expansion of the capacity of the plant continues, temporary tenements and hutments have been built for construction workers in different camps. Such camps are also provided with shops, dispensaries, water supply, etc.

Medical Facilities

Medical aid is given free to the Project employees and their families. There is one Main Hospital with 278 beds and in different sectors of the Township there are Health Centres. One of the Labour Camps is provided with a dispensary.

The Main Hospital which was started on the 8th May, 1963 provides for all types of specialized treatment in surgical, orthopaedic, chronic diseases, gynaecology, obstetrics, E. N. T., dental, pathology, radiology, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. The Hospital is equipped with all modern surgical and medical treatment devices. Special children's clinic is run for the benefit of children of labour living in the camps. Treatment facilities include free X-Ray and pathological tests, indoor treatment, injections, sulpha drugs, patent medicines, etc., for all eligible persons.

The workmen employed under the contractors are given medical aid on payment by their employers. Maternity facilities include ante-natal and post-natal visits and family planning. Indoor patients are given free hospital clothing and meals as per standards prescribed by the physician.

Public Health

There is a separate Public Health Department under a well-qualified senior Health Officer. The Public Health Department arranges for sanitation of the township and labour camps, anti-malaria and anti-epidemic campaigns and disposal of unclaimed dead bodies.

Education

Education for the children of the Project employees is free upto the age of 14 years. Four sets of uniforms and a pair of shoes are given to each student of the primary school, free of cost. There were one higher secondary school, two middle schools and 10 primary schools in the township. In the labour camps, *bal mandirs* are functioning where children belonging to pre-primary standard are admitted and elementary education is imparted to them through whole-time paid teachers.

There are a number of clubs, play grounds, and children's parks in different sectors, in which the township is divided. The *mahila samaj*, an organization of women, is working for the welfare of women and children. The *mahila samaj* runs an *Udyog Kendra* for the purpose of training in stitching and knitting and undertakes work on orders for making uniforms for schools, security guards, peons, etc., which enables the wives of the Project employees to supplement their family incomes.

The General Manager has an Amenities Fund of about Rs. 25,000 for the year at his disposal. The amount is distributed through the amenities committees, sports committees, etc. for various activities arranged from time to time.

Nearly 40 buses are being run by the Project for transporting the workers from their residence to the worksite and back On the Plant site employees' canteens are being organized. About 11 spacious welfare buildings have been built all over the Steel Works, which have canteens, workers' rest-rooms, lunch-rooms, etc.

There is a Safety Department of the Plant which is responsible for training workers and exercising proper vigilance at work, making them safety conscious. Lectures are delivered on safety measures and the workers are taught the use of safety appliances for workers. For workers who have to work with hot equipments or in front of hot furnaces gloves, shoes, goggles and aprons are provided. Salt tablets are distributed to the workers in the summer season.

Hindustan Construction Company, Bhilai, besides providing statutory welfare facilities, have provided residential quarters to their workers in their Batching and Crushing Plant, free of charge. The Company runs a mess for their employees. All the expenses on account of servants in the Mess, utensils and food are borne by the Company. Workers are also given hurricane lanterns and buckets for their

personal use. Free conveyance facility is provided to the staff of the Company and also to the school-going children of the employees.

Dharmasi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd., Kumhari, provides free medical aid to its workers. The dependent parents, wife and minor children of the workmen are also provided medical aid. The facility of hospitalization as per rules of the Company is available to the permanent workmen on recommendation of the Company's Medical Officer. Eligible workmen are entitled to payment of gratuity under the Gratuity Scheme of the Company.

The Associated Cement Companies Limited, Jamul Cement Works at Jamul provide housing facilities at economic rent as fixed by the Central Wages Board. Free medical aid to the extent available at the Dispensary of the Works is given to workers, while serious cases are admitted in the District Hospital, Durg, and ex-gratia payment is made for the treatment of worker and his family. Free education is given to the children of the workers upto Standard IVth. Interest-free loans are given to the needy workers. Facilities for transport of the workers and for their children attending schools at Bhilai are provided. Fair Price Shops are run through the co-operative society of the employees.

Thus, the enlightened employers in organized industries are providing substantial welfare facilities to their workers, over and above the statutory welfare facilities provided under different Labour Welfare enactments.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Banking and Finance

The successful functioning of the various financial institutions and credit organisations largely helps the progress of agriculture, trade and industry. The main purpose of the first part of this chapter, therefore, is to provide a general description of capital, credit and credit organisations of Durg District. The scope of the chapter is limited to an analytical and, whenever possible, a comparative study of different financial agencies catering credit to the District, sources and total amount of credit available, different channels of investment of available credit, and returns on different types of investment.

From the earliest times of civilisation when private property rights were accepted as a part of the established social order, the urge of accumulation and extension has been steadily at work. One can notice that this urge had existed even in the remote past of feudal age. The use of accumulated capital was then confined primarily to money-lending and expansion of trading and other commercial activities. Gradually, by the end of the Middle Age, there emerged a primitive capitalist class of financiers and merchants with their concentration in the small medieval towns and trading centres controlling the bulk of the economy. This was almost a universal phenomenon to which Durg District was no exception.

In fact, in all agricultural countries some financial agency is necessary to provide credit facilities for the continuance of agricultural operations. The age-old institution of money-lenders, thus, had traditionally been the main agency meeting the credit requirements of the rural sector of economy in the past, and it continues to enjoy even today more or less the same prominent position in that field in spite of vigorous efforts by Government to develop and enlarge alternative sources of credit and to control and regulate the business activities of money-lenders by various legislative measures.

The Reserve Bank of India undertook to enquire into the working of money-lending and the report, published in 1954 by the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee, reveals that 93 per cent of the total borrowings of cultivators is financed by non-institutional or private agencies of which most important are money-lenders who account for nearly 70 per cent. The sample survey undertaken by the Committee further reveals that in Durg District about 54 per cent of the debt of cultivators is financed through private agencies.

Such a predominant position enjoyed by the money-lenders would have meant no harm to our rural economy, had they refrained from indulging in unhealthy practices and exorbitant charges they make for their services. In spite of all these evil practices which are known to all, including debtors, money-lenders still continue to enjoy almost the same position in the rural economy of the district as in the past. This is due partly to the fact that the methods employed by them in dealing with debtors, though objectionable in other ways, have the advantage of being extremely flexible, and partly to the ready availability of funds for all purposes and sometimes without any kind of legal formalities. This is exactly what Government and Co-operative Credit agencies have not been able to do in the context of prevailing peculiar characteristics of our rural economy. Hence the dependence on money-lenders.

An early authoritative source of information about money-lending and banking business recorded in British times could be the Land Revenue Settlement Report of Raepore district, 1869, which included the southern half of Durg District area.[1] During the Hindu and Gond periods, rich businessmen and landlords advanced loans to needy persons including the cultivators and Zamindars. Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan States acquired satisfaction in advancing loans in the 18th century. As the District had been constituted only in 1907, there were no transactions to record under the Government Loans Acts. As such information given in the above is also pertinent.

The old District Gazetteer of 1908 records the name of Luduram Seth. Mahesri Bania of Rajnandgaon, and Arjunda in Durg Tahsil as the biggest money-lenders of the time. The other leading bankers were Raghunath Misra of Patan, Ram Prasad Agrawal Bania and Ghasi Sao Kasondha Bania of Deokar, Umrao Singh Kurmi of Bemetara, and Hari Prasad of Sambalpur in Sanjari Tahsil. There is a reference in the old District Gazetteer to the rate of interest on private loan in cash and in kind. The rate of interest in kind, particularly loans of rice for seed, varied from 25 to 50 per cent according to the standing of the borrower, and simple mortgage was the most common form of security for landed property, and the interest on mortgages was usually 9 per cent.

It was reported that "In Chhattisgarh (Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg) where roads are not always good, small tenants who have no carts, and malguzars and other big cultivators who do not wish to take the trouble of carrying their grain to a distant market, sell their produce to petty dealers who go round and make purchase in the village. These dealers are locally known as *Kochavas* (petty dealers) or Kheparis (traders having 'Kheps' or trips). These petty dealers are financed by indigenous bankers, who are also grain dealers of big grain merchants. The interest charged is often at 1/2 anna per rupee per month or 27 per cent per annum for the duration of the trip."[2]

1. Raepore District Settlement Report, 1869. Paras 224-225 pp. 86-87.
2. Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee (Central Provinces and Berar Report) Fara 1922, p. 338.

It is clear from the description given in brief above that Bentham's doctrine of '*laissez faire*' (which the Britisher nourished in that period) assailing all restrictions upon the freedom of individual action prevailed in the District, resulting in an absolute freedom of contract to individual to fix any rate of interest. The system of justice and administration introduced by the British provided a coverage for money-lenders' action in the early period.

However, the Government realised the need for proper control of money-lending. This led to several enactments such as the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, and the Central Provinces and Berar Money-lenders Act, 1934. These Acts were directed towards eliminating usury and other malpractices through a system of registration and compulsory maintenance of accounts. But, the attitude of the money-lenders on the whole had been one of indifference, and they appeared generally to desire to be left alone to carry on their business according to their old-fashioned methods, in which their financial position with regard to their other business activities remained shrouded in mystery. The indigenous bankers continued in their old ways without profiting from new experiments, and in the complexities of modern credit and finance, craft of the indigenous bankers became obsolete. Yet they can not be ignored from the banking, trade and commercial activities. As long as rural economy of the District remains in all its uncertainties and vagaries, the indigenous banker or money-lender in one form or the other will remain firmly rooted.

The general credit facilities available for agriculture, trade and commercial activities in the District at the moment include the village *mahajans*, registered money-lenders, joint stock banks, co-operative credit societies and banks and loans from the Government Before dealing with these credit agencies in general and the relative role played by them in the district, it will not be out of place here to have a brief review of need of credit prevailing in the District. In other words rural and urban indebtedness and the extent to which usury is prevalent in the District should be dealt with first so that relative role of different credit agencies and need of supplying funds to right persons in right time in right manner could be studied in a clear perspective.

Indebtedness

There has been no systematic study of the problem of indebtedness, both in rural and urban areas in this District. The old District Gazetteer of the District (1909) and the first Settlement Report of the District (1912) are silent over this matter. The Provincial, Banking Enquiry Committee, (C. P. and Berar), 1929-30, however, made an attempt in this direction. According to this report, the total estimated indebtedness of *malguzars* and tenants in Durg District was Rs. 49,08,586 and Rs. 22,42,981, respectively, totalling to Rs. 71,51,567. The *malguzars*' debt represented 11 per cent of the value of the property which they held, while tenants' debt represented Rs. 2 per acre and Rs. 26 per family. The report presented a very high-sounding note regarding the District in respect

of indebtedness and noted with complacence that "the ordinary cultivator, who does not actually borrow, keeps in hand at least sufficient where-with all for his annual food and agricultural requirements. These cultivators who borrow money are in the habit of taking short-term seasonal loan during the agricultural year, most of which is repaid at harvest time when the corp is normal and a considerable proportion of the disclosed debt was merely the ordinary seasonal short-term loans which were due for harvest."[1]

As Chhattisgarh had been fortunate enough to have a succession of good years and of normal harvests from 1920 to 1932, it is not surprising to find such observations. The final report on the resettlement of Durg District published in 1933 endorsed the views expressed by Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee and Government resolved vide resolution No. 357-XVI-4 of 16th May, 1933 that "the tenancy is a sound body of small holders who do their own cultivation, the average holding being little more than 6½ acres. Sixty per cent of them are free from Debt and a further 29 per cent have debts of not more than Rs. 100 each. Of the proprietary body, who are mostly small men living on the land and owning only a share and not a village, at least 35 per cent are free from debt, while another 46 per cent are not more than Rs. 1000 each. The principal cultivating classes as a whole, whether as tenants or *malguzars*, have more holding of their own against the money-lender, though the backward castes have had to part with some of their villages to non-agriculturist". However. one has to keep in mind that the Settlement Officers and various other Revenue Officers, who have enquired into the living conditions of the people of different times, made observations which indicate the general feature.

An important land-mark in this direction was made in the year 1950-51, when All India Rural Credit Survey Committee was appointed by the Reserve Bank of India. The Committee made detailed and exhaustive sample survey of rural indebtedness in Durg District. Their observations are given in a brief and condensed form in the following paragraphs.

Outstanding Debts

As per report, indebtedness per cultivating family showed an increased of 216 per cent from Rs. 25/- in 1929-30 to Rs. 79/- in 1950-51. The debt per indebted family increased from Rs. 71/- in 1929-30 to Rs. 162/- in 1950-51, that is, an increase of 128 per cent during the period. In all 44 per cent families were having outstanding debts, among whom cultivators were 49 per cent and non-cultivators 23 per cent. The average debt per family both cultivators and non-cultivators, was Rs. 68. On the other hand, average debt per indebted family was Rs. 153/-. The total outstanding Debts of upper strata numbered 5,902, out of which 4,396 or 74.4 per cent were for one year or less, while for lower strata of cultivators the number was 5,470, out of which 5,292 or 96.7 per cent were for one year or less.

1. Ibid., Vol. II, Appendices 717 and 718.

Borrowings

About 45 per cent of the total families in the District boriowed money. The average amoung of borrowing per family was Rs. 54 The purpose of borrowing (all families) as percentage to total borrowings for the year 1950-51 is given as under.—

	Total borrowings	Capital exp. on farm	Current exp. on farm	Non-farm business exp.	Family exp.	Other purposes
Per family (Rs.)	54	13 (24.3)	08 (14.9)	—	31 (57.6)	02 (3.2)
Per reporting family (Rs.)	49.4	125 (25.3)	53 (10.7)	50 (10.1)	95 (19.3)	171 (35.6)

(Figures in brackets denote percentage of total borrowings).

The above table shows that borrowing per family, for productive expenditure is only 39.2 per cent, while non-productive expenditure is more than 60 per cent. The same trend is also noticeable as far as reporting families are concerned.

The Table given below gives another interesting picture of borrowings and outstandings in cash and kind for all cultivators:—

(Amount in Rs.)

Proportion of families reporting		Value of borrowings per family		Value of borrowings per borrowing family		Value of outstanding Loans per family		Proportion of value of borrowings in grain to borrowings in cash (%)	Proportion of value of outstandings in grain to out standing in cash (%)
Grain	Cash	Grain	Cash	Grain	Cash	Grain	Cash		
26	41	18	62	70	152	4	57	29	7

As far as sources of finance for repayment are concerned, report mentioned that current income, sale of assets and borrowings constitute 85, 12 and 3 per cent, respectively, of total repayments by all families. It means that if bad years continued for a considerable time, a lot of difficulties may spring up for meeting even the current expenditure of the families. It may be noted in this context that the share of past savings is almost nil in repayment of old debts. The securities which they are ready to offer are only immovable property. In upper strata of cultivators immovable property is offered by about 72 per cent of the total family while in case of lower strata it is for 75 per cent of them. This brief review of rural indebtedness in Durg District reveals the fact that most of the persons are living on marginal subsistence and their ability to save is almost negligible. The

report mentions that the gross capital formation, which is the result of savings, for all families was only Rs. 24 per year (cultivators Rs. 29 and non-cultivators Rs. 2 only). The above picture presnets a case for strengthening credit and financial institutions in the District so that hidden productive wealth of District may be harnessed.

At this juncture it should, however, be remembered that since no enquiry and survey were undertaken either for the agricultural labourers or factory labourers in the District, a complete, coherent picture of indebtedness in its totality cannot emerge.

Credit Agencies available in the District

The agencies which supply credit may be grouped into four categories (1) Agriculturist money-lenders, professional money-lenders and commission agents, or non-institutional private individual agencies, (2) Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks, (3) Joint Stock Banks and other organised financial institutions, and (4) Government.

According to the Rural Credit Enquiry Committee, 1954, the relative position of these four main groups in the Durg District in 1950-51 was as follows:—

	All families (Rs.)	(Percentage of total are in brackets) Cultivating families (Rs.)	Non-cultivating families (Rs.)
1. Money-lenders	48 (88.9)	56 (88.6)	09 (100)
2. Co-operatives	01 (1.4)	01 (1.4)	..
3. Commercial Banks	—	—	—
4. Government	05 (9.7)	07 (10.0)	—
Total Borrowings	54	64	09

The average debt for all families came to Rs. 68 out of which the share or Government was Rs. 5 or 7.4 per cent, Co-operative Banks Rs. 2 or 2.9 per cent and money-lenders Rs. 61 or 89.7 per cent of the total Debt. All these figures are self-explanatory and give a fair idea of the hold of the money-lenders. It is also to be remembered in this context that the rate of interest charged by them in comparison to other institutional credit agencies is very high. The report mentions that in Durg District 67.9 per cent of loans bear 18¾ to 25 per cent of interest.

Money-lenders

As evident from the foregoing description, money-lenders had a prominent position in the rural economy of the District. As a matter of fact, money-lending was the chief form of investment. Everybody who could save something, except perhaps government officials, took to money-lending. Thus apart from professional money-lenders money-lending was resorted to by some traders, shopkeepers, brokers, etc. who were able to save and lend. In the rural areas, village headman, *malguzars*, and some cultivators, besides the professional money-lenders, advanced loans to those in need of them. Besides the mortgages of landed property with or without possession, there seemed in vogue the practice also of service mortgage, particularly in lower and backward castes.

The situation has, however, considerably changed during the last sixty years. Only a few persons are now found to follow money-lending as a sole profession of life, most of them combine money-lending with some other business. Money-lenders now include village money-lenders, town money-lenders, land-owning or agriculturist money-lenders, gold smiths and dealers in ornaments who specialise in loans secured by pledge of ornaments, *shroffs* and other persons dealing in *hundies* merchants, commission agents, *dalals* and the like.

In the District, a large section of money-lenders was found indulging in certain questionable practices, thereby exploiting the helplessness of the villagers. In these circumstances it was found necessary to regulate the business of money-lenders by appropriate legislative measures, it resulting in the enactment of the Central Provinces and Berar Money-lenders Act, 1934. with amendments in 1937, 1939 and 1940, the Central Provinces and Berar Money-lenders (Supplementary) Act, 1939. and the Central Provinces and Berar Protection of Debtors, Act, 1937. Subsequently, the government described the Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act 1939 in the Statute Book. The courts were given wide and far-reaching powers to give relief to the debtors.

The Debt Relief Court under the Madhya Pradesh Scheduled Tribes' Debt Relief Regulation, 1962, was established at Balod, for the Scheduled area of Balod Tahsil from 26th Nov., 1963. As per provision in Regulation 6 of the said Regulation, the creditors were to present their claims against the tribal debtors within 60 days from 26th January, 1964, the date of establishment of the Court. Conseqently, 448 cases were registered in the Court. Out of these 247 cases were dismissed in default of appearance, 56 cases were time barred, 48 cases were not entertained, as they were out of jurisdiction, 46 cases were settled by compromise between the parties, and remaining cases were disposed of by the Court by fixing suitable instalments. The total amount involved was Rs. 1,64,158 and 6,030 *Khandi* of paddy-approximately amounting to Rs. 1,20,600. An amount of Rs. 14,200 was written off.

The "Madhya Pradesh Anusuchit Jan Jati Rini Sahayata Adhyadesh, 1966" was enforced in non-scheduled areas of the State with effect from 15th March,

1967. The prescribed limitation of 60 days for the claims to be filed by creditors under section 8(3), was 30th May, 1967, for non-scheduled areas, and 18th July, 1967, for scheduled areas of Balod Tahsil. Consequently, 1,277 and 457 applications were presented by the debtors and creditors, respectively, in the Debt Relief Court, Balod.

In Durg tahsil, 1,120 applications of debtors against 2,760 creditors involving an amount of Rs. 6,57,329 and 1,369 *Khandi* paddy, 13.5 *Khandi* wheat, 1.5 *Khandi* Lakh and 5 *Khandi kodo* were received and registered. Similarly, 1,101 applications involving an amount of Rs. 2,38,364, and 204 *Khandi* paddy were received from creditors. Out of which 350 cases were registered.

Thus, registration and licensing of money-lenders and maintenance of accounts in prescribed form was made compulsory. Moreover, furnishing of periodical statement of accounts to debtors and issue of receipts to them for every payment received is made necessary for the money-lenders. The Acts also specify the maximum rate of interest allowed on a secured and on an unsecured loan. It is 12 per cent simple and 10 per cent compound rate of interest on secured loans, and 18 per cent and 10 per cent on simple and compound, respectively, on unsecured loan.

The following Table shows the (Tahsil-wise) number of registered money-lenders in the District for the years 1965 to 1970:—

Tahsil	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970 (up to 31-7-71)
1. Durg	226	222	252	272	257	146
2. Bemetara	248	137	151	149	156	97
3. Balod	146	127	127	141	131	127
4. Rajnandgaon	125	93	92	108	91	112
5. Khairagarh	43	43	55	48	56	26
6. Kawardha	46	N.A.	42	41	47	31
7. Dongargarh	36	38	15	32	26	36

Debt relief and money-lending legislation was viewed with alarm by private money-lenders. They took a gloomy view of their risks and hesitated in providing loan facilities to agriculturists. Vacuum was thus created in the rural credit structure. Government took a serious view of the situation and co-operative movement was intensified in the rural area.

Co-operatives

The co-operative credit movement in Durg District took place with the establishment of Durg District Co-operative Central and Land Mortgage Bank Ltd., on 10th October, 1911, with a share capital of Rs. 2,870 and deposit of Rs.

1,265 only. At the beginning its business was only to finance primary credit societies. At this stage only 29 co-operative societies were affiliated to it and loan advanced to them was Rs. 16,891 only. After a decade, in 1921-22, the number of affiliated Societies increased to 200 with a total membership of, 3,985 and the loan advanced by the bank was Rs. 60,070 only, though by this time it had a working capital of Rs. 2,84,597. Again, in 1931-32, the progress of the Bank was more or less steady, having a total number of societies 131, number of members 2,026 and loan advanced Rs. 1,04,235, with a working capital of Rs. 1,58,624. It opened its second branch in Durg in 1933-34 and the third in Rajnandgaon in 1946-47. Since the year 1933-34 its functions enlarged and its working also extended to non-agricultural credit societies, and agriculture non-credit societies. By the year it had under its jurisdiction 304 societies having total membership of 4,081 and loan advanced was Rs. 1,59,406, with a working capital of Rs. 2,02,912 only.

For long-term financing the Bank under took Land Mortgage Bank's function from 1938-39 with a membership of only 36 persons and working capital of Rs. 26 only. The working capital was raised to Rs. 1,900 in 1941-42.

The pre-Independence period of co-operative movement in the District thus does not paint a bright picture in the context of the short-term (seasonal) and long-term credit needs of the rural area. The co-operative movement however gained momentum in the post independence era and we see the establishment of the Birendra Co-operative Central and Land Mortgage Bank Ltd., Khairagarh, on 30th June, 1949. In the beginning, the Bank started its work in Khairagarh Tahsil only, but in 1959-60 the area was extended to Kawardha Tahsil also. The share capital in 1951-52 was Rs. 20,705 while the number of societies affiliated to it was only 14. It advanced loans of Rs. 5,253 only in the year 1951-52.

Present Position

All the Co-operative Societies may be grouped into two categories. (1) Credit societies and (2) Non-credit societies. Creait societies may further be classified into (1) Central banks, (2) Agricultural credit societies (3) Non-agricultural credit societies. Non-Credit societies in the same way may be classified into (1) Agricultural other than primary (rural areas), (2) Non-Agricultural Societies, (3) Societies other than primary. These societies may either be multipurpose co-operative societies or one-purpose co-operative credit societies.

Co-operative Central Bank

There were two central co-operative banks in Durg District, namely, The Durg District Central Co-operative Bank, Durg and The Birendra Central Co-operative Bank, Khairagarh. The latest position of these two Central Banks is given below:

The Durg District Co-operative Central and Land Mortgage Bank, Durg

During the year 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65the bank had made advances of Rs. 1,22,78,772 Rs. 1,44,94,955 and Rs. 1,55,37,898, respectively. In the

same period the number of societies affiliated to the bank was 929 and 949 and 966, respectively. The detailed account of the working of the Bank from 1950 to 1965 has been given in Appendix A .

There were 2,888 villages in the area of operation of the bank, out of which 2,680 villages have been covered by the co-operative credit societies, the ratio coming to 92 per cent. About 32 per cent of the population has been covered by the co-operatives by the end of the year 1965.

The bank continued to borrow short term loan for agricultural operations from Reserve Bank of India and *Taccavi loans of Government* throaugh the Madhya Pradesh Co-operative Bank.

The bank is not advancing long term loans as a separate Land Mortagage Bank is functioning since 1st, April, 1963. The Birendra Central Co-operative Bank, Khairagarh.

During the years 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65 the bank had made advances of Rs. 31,42,443 Rs. 28,98,842, and Rs. 37,43,584, respectively. The bank is feeding 298 societies.

The following figures represent a clear picture of the working of the Birendra Central Co-operative Bank, Khairagarh:—

(Amount in Lakh Rupees)

	Particulars	1966	1967	1968	1969
1.	Number of Societies affiliated	1,272	1,276	783	785
2.	Number of Individual Members	1,104	1,126	1,126	284
3.	Share Capital	32.35	34.32	37.22	48.47
4.	Working Capital	327.32	378.74	384.55	401.74
5.	Loan taken from apex Bank	139.83	167.03	146.46	172.61
6.	Deposits	94.64	121.71	81.96	88.35
7.	Loans Out-standing against Societies	229.60	299.93	316.90	335.29
8.	Loans Advanced to Members	—	220.40	156.96	194.40
9.	Loans out-standing	—	293.85	313.98	331.27

The bank borrowed according to its requirements from the Reserve Bank of India through the Madhya Pradesh State Co-operative Bank for financing the Agricultural Credit Societies.

These two banks, Durg District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Durg and the Birendra Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Khairagarh, were separate banks till

30th June, 1965. The Birendra Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Khairagarh, has been amalgamated with the Durg District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., Durg, with the name Durg District Birendra Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Durg, with effect from 1st July, 1965.

Durg Zila Sahakari Bhoo-Vikas Bank Maryadit, Durg.

Prior to the registration and working of this Bank the long-term financing was done by the Land Mortgage Bank section of the Durg District Co-operative Central and Land Mortgage Bank Ltd., Durg. The bank started its working from 1st April, 1963. The area of operation of this bank is the whole of the Durg District, with head-quarters at Durg. It had no branch till the 30th June, 1966. The business figures for the years from 1965-66 to 1969-70 are tabulated below—

(in lakh Rs.)

S.No.	Particulars	YEARS				
		1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
1.	Share Capital	0.70	0.86	1 02	1.13	1.27
2.	Borrowings	3.21	1.62	5.12	1.27	4.53
3.	Working Capital	13.03	13.05	18.24	17.28	N.A.
4.	Loans Outstanding	10.17	11.16	14.94	14.25	1.73 (Approx.)

The long-term loans are provided on the mortgage of land for the expenditure of capital and permanent nature to be incurred primarily on agricultural operations and the rate of interest is 9 per cent per annum.

In the year 1963, there were 224 members with a share capital of Rs. 10,453 only. The working capital was Rs. 10,22,641 and loan taken from Apex Bank was Rs. 72,800. The deposits were Rs. 39,388, and loans given were Rs. 76,500. The loans outstanding during the year were Rs. 72,800 only.

Agricultural Credit Societies

There were 1,212 Agricultural Credit Societies as on 30th June, 1965, in Durg District. The following figures give a picture of the progress of Agricultural Credit Societies for the years 1962-63 and 1968-69:—

		1962-63	1968-69
1.	No. of Agricultural Credit Societies	1,190	722
2.	Average membership per society	62	194
3.	Loans advanced to Members (in lakh Rs.)	130 88	194.40
4.	Average Loans advanced per society (Rs.)	10,907	27,264
5.	Average loans advanced per member	176	110

Regarding other important co-operative societies in the District, a brief description is given below:—

Salary-Earners Co-operative Societies

There were 26 salary-earners co-operative societies as on 30th June, 1965. The paid-up share capital of these societies was Rs. 28,559 contributed by 857 members. During the year 1964-65, these societies advanced loan to their members worth Rs. 40,276 and in the same period Rs. 7,044 were recovered. At the close of the year i.e., 30th June, 1965, loan amounting to Rs. 1,59,745 was outstanding against the members. The assets and liabilities as on 30th June, 1965 were as under:—

Liabilities		Assets	
Paid-up-capital	28,559	Cash in hand	304
Reserves	25,188	Investment	44,967
Deposits	29,166	Loans outstanding	1,59,745
Borrowings	1,15,422	All other assets	4,432
All other liabilities	581		
	1,98,916		
Profit	10,532		
	2,09,448		2,09,448

Better Farming Societies

There are 19 Better Farming Societies. These societies are not classified as Farming Societies because they are mostly doing the credit business as yet. As such, detailed account of their working is not available.

Joint Farming Societies

There were 14 Joint Farming Societies in Durg District by the end of 1965. Their names, places and dates of establishment are as under:—

Name of the Society	Location	Date of Establishment
1. Adarsh Laxmi Joint Farming	Coop. Socy. Ltd., Nikum	23.10.61
2. Durgeshwari " "	Achhoti	23 10.61
3. Bharatiya " "	Bharda	24.11.61
4. Haldhar " "	Dhaba	7. 2.62
5. Shramjeevi " "	Dhaur	14. 3.62
6. Shrijotirmaya " "	Chirpoti	9.10.62
7. Annapurna " "	Matwari	28.11.62
8. Ashutosh " "	Damodha	13. 2.63
9. Janta " "	Suregaon	17. 1.62
10. Bhagwati " "	Bhothali	21.11.62

11.	Bhuwaneshwar " "	Tirga	19.12.59
12.	Sarvodaya " "	Nandori	1.2.63
13.	Joint Farming Co-operative	Thanoo	4.1.63
14.	Joint Farming Co-operative	Ghupsidiha	18.2.63

Housing Societies

There were eight co-operative housing societies in Durg District as on 30th June, 1965. Out of these societies only one society named as Durg Zila Grih Nirman Co-operative Society Ltd., Rajnandgaon, is working and all others are defunct. The society has paid-up capital of Rs. 69,200 contributed by 497 members, and an officer in-charge of the cadre of Assistant Registrar is looking after the working of the society.

Transport Co-operative Societies

There are three transport co-operative societies, out of these two are motor transport co-operative societies namely Kamgar Motor Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Durg (19-7-58) and Janta Motor Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Durg (27-3-61). There is one Riksha-Pullers Society. The Motor Transport Co-operative Societies are in working position, whereas the other is defunct.

Co-operative Rice Mill

There is one co-operative rice mill known as "Co-operative Ashok Rice Mill, Rajnandgaon." The paid-up share capital of the Rice Mill is Rs. 2,07,000 contributed by its members including the Government share contribution of Rs. 1,50,000. The borrowing of Rs. 17,291 was outstanding as on 30th June, 1965.

The assets and liabilities of the Rice Mill on 30-6-65 were as follows:—

Liabilities		Assets	
Paid up capital	2,07,000	Fixed assets	1,80,913
Reserve & other funds	266	Closing Stock	12,687
Borrowings	17,291	All other assets	77,879
All other liabilities	38,151		
	2,62,708		
Accumulated profit	8,771		
	2,71,479		2,71,479

It was decided that 12 more Rice Mills under the co-operative sector should be installed. Out of these 12 rice mills, the construction of 6 Rice Mills was started at Dongargarh, Dongargaon, Gunderdehi, Salood, Dhamdha and Gurur. The remaining six are to be constructed at Chuki, Khairagarh, Gandai, Bemetara, Chhuria and Balod. The details regarding the other Industrial Co-opra tive Socie-ties and State assistance received by them are given in Appendix A.

Loans to Industrial and Weavers Co-operative Societies of the District during Third Five Year Plan period, were sanctioned by the State Government for development of Cotton Hand-loom Industry and also for development of Small Cottage Industries. Loans advanced to Weavers Co-operative Societies were free of interest while those given to Industrial Co-operative Societies were sanctioned at interest of Rs. 2 per cent per annum. Loans to the extent of Rs. 2,44,224 were also advanced to industrial and weavers co-operative societies during Third Five Year Plan period by the State Government. Loans to Weavers Co-operative Societies were advanced at interest of Rs. 4 per cent per annum while loans to Industrial Co-operative Societies were advanced at interest of Rs. 2½ per cent per annum.

The Co-operative Central Bank, Durg, Reserve Bank of India (through Co-operative Central Bank, Durg) and the M. P. Khadi and Village Industries Board also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 6,86,000, Rs. 2,72,000 and Rs. 6,68,650, respectively, at the rate of 6, 3 and 2½ per cent respectively. The following societies advance loan and also provide raw materials to their worker members.

1. The Durg District Weavers Co-operative Association Ltd., Durg.
2. The Durg Brass Metal Workers Co-operative Society Ltd., Durg.
3. Chhuikhadan Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd., Chhuikhadan.

Members were also given wages, which helped them to earn their livlihood and also to repay their present debts. Up to the year 1965 members of the above societies were advanced Rs. 23,82,820 by way of loans, raw materials, wages, etc.

The table given in Appendix 'C' depicts the consolidated picture of co-operative movement in the District as on 30th June, 1969.

Joint Stock Banks

The Commercial Banks (Scheduled and non-Scheduled), which form the main component of modern banking structure specialize in only certain phases of economic activities because of their structure, method of business, etc. Their interest in agriculture credit lies not so much in production as in marketing. Thus, the location of these banks is necessarily guided by the large concentration of places of agricultural produce, industry and trade, which are mainly the characteristics of urban centres.

The first bank office to be opened in the District was a branch of the Bank of Nagpur Ltd., established at Durg which was later on amalgamated with the Bank of Maharashtra Ltd., Durg, on 27th March, 1961. The second bank in succession to open the branch was the Allahabad Bank Ltd., which established its branch at Rajnandgaon in 1949 and at Durg in 1950. The State Bank of India came in the picture in the District by establishing its branch at Durg in 1954 and now has in all eight branch-offices at Durg, Bhilai, Kawardha, Khairagarh,

Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon, Balod and Bemetara and a sub-office at Rajhara by the end of 1966. With the operation of Bhilai Steel Project in its full capacity, United Commercial Bank (1959) Punjab National Bank (1960) and Central Bank of India (1960), also started their working at Bhilai.

The approximate volume of business for all the banks in a consolidated form in the District for the year 1963 to 1965 is given in the table below:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Deposits	Advances
1963	266.28	314.09
1964	268.07	437.96
1965	264.87	665.01

Branches of State Bank of India in the District offer finance and help to start small-scale industrial unit and put it on even keel. They provide credit to small scale Industrial Units for acquiring the capital assets, and to hold stocks of raw materials, stores and manufactured products. They also provide medium-term loans in addition to advances in various shapes which are repayable on demand and are renewed after short periods. They handle foreign exchange business of small-scale units with knowledge and care where the commodities are in short supplies. They reduce the margin to lend a more comfortable cushion to their borrowers, and the margin in respect of medium-term loans, may also be relaxed in certain specific case. From the statistics available, however, it appears that the advantage of these facilities was not taken in the District, where State Bank of India could advance only Rs. 8,000 and Rs. 17,000 in the years 1963 and 1965, respectively. The advances at the rate of 3½ per cent interest over bank-rate against Ware-House Receipts were granted for more than Rs. 123; Rs. 157 and Rs. 145 lakhs during the years 1963, 1964 and 1965, respectively. The Allahabad Bank led in advancing the loan against the Ware-House Receipts in the District.

The Commercial Banks in the District also served during the emergencies. The State Bank of India even pressed into operation a special mobile van for Defence collection and collected Gold and Gold Ornaments of about 2838 gram during the period 1962-63.

Expansion of Banking Activities

The development of banking activities took place in the District with the establishment of the Steel Plant at Bhilai and the important leading commercial banks in the country started their branches in the District. By the end of 1967, there were 20 bank-offices in Durg District. The banking activities increased rapidly after 1968 and particularly after nationalisation of Banks in August, 1969. The number of bank offices increased from 20 in 1968 to 23 by the end of Septem-

ber, 1970. The centre-wise list of Commercial Bank offices in Durg District, as at the end of September, 1970, was as follows:—

Name of the Centre	Name of the Bank	Type and Number of Office
1. Balod	1. State Bank of India	1 (B)
2. Bemetara	1. State Bank of India	1 (B)
3. Bhilai	1. Bank of Baroda	1 (B)
	2. Bank of India	1 (B)
	3. Central Bank of India	1 (S.O)
	4. Punjab National Bank	1 (B)
	5. State Bank of India	1 (B)
	6. United Commercial Bank	2 (B) (S.O.)
4. Dongargarh	1. State Bank of India	1 (B)
5. Durg	1. Allahabad Bank	1 (B)
	2. Bank of Maharashtra	1 (B)
	3. Dena Bank	1 (B)
	4. State Bank of India	1 (B)
6. Kawardha	1. State Bank of India	1 (B)
7. Khairagarh	1. State Bank of India	1 (B)
8. Nandini Township	1. State Bank of India	1 (S.O.)
9. Rajhara	1. State Bank of India	1 (S.O.)
10. Rajnandgaon	1. Allahabad Bank	1 (B)
	2. Bank of Maharashtra	1 (B)
	3. Punjab National Bank	1 (P.O.)
	4. State Bank of India	1 (B)

Note:—(B) Branch Office, (S.O.) Sub-Office, (P.O.) Pay Office.

In the District there were 11 branches of the State Bank of India, two branches each of the Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra and one branch each of the Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, United Commercial Bank and Dena Bank by the end of September, 1970. The District Central Co-operative and State Co-operative Bank are also transacting the banking business in the District.

Average Population per Office

By the end of December, 1967, average population served by a banking office in the District was 1,12,000 while the State average was 1,31,000. With the branch expansion activities, the average population served by a office in the District was 1,05,000 as compared to 1,16,000 persons per banking office (average) in Madhya Pradesh at the end of September, 1970. Durg District ranked 214 in average population per office of Commercial banks in District-wise data arranged for the whole country in ascending order of population served as at the end of September, 1970.

Volume of Business

The Bank deposits in the District stood at Rs. 3.97 crores, and Rs. 4.31 crores at the end of the year 1966 and 1968, respectively. The lion's share of Bank deposits was in Bhilai being Rs. 2.28 crores and Rs. 2.40 crores, in 1966 and 1968, respectively. The Bank credit in the District in the same years stood at Rs. 2.96 crores and Rs. 1.19 crores, respectively. The bulk of Bank credit was concentrated in Bhilai being Rs. 2.58 crores and Rs. 0.83 crore. It is apparent from the figures given below that banking activities in the District are highly concentrated industrial and urban area of Bhilai and Durg city and rural areas were least affected by banking transactions till 1968.

(Amount in Lakhs Rs.)

Year (as on 31st December)	District/ Centre	Deposits	Bank Credit
1966	Durg District	397	296
	Bhilai	228	258
	Durg City	65	7
1968	Durg District	431	119
	Bhilai	240	83
	Durg City	78	7
	Rajnandgaon	52	27
	Others	61	2

The role that any banking system has to play is to mobilise the savings of the Nation, provide the cheap means of payment and allocate credit in such a way as to produce optimum productivity in all sectors. The banks thus control the string of economic life of the community. Till date, the commercial banks in the District were concentrated at places of agricultural marketing, industry and trade, which are mainly the characteristic of urban Centres of Bhilai and to some extent, of Durg. The small turn-over and concentration of banking activities only at one place in the District indicates that the most of the area of the District is deprived of this purposeful action of banking transactions. Durg District, more or less, has an based economy with gigantic steel plant at Bhilai and the fact remains that the agriculture sector of the District did not derive any substantive benefit till 1968.

The nationalisation of leading comm ercial banks appears to have raised the expectations of the cultivators in regard to the availability of credit on reasonable terms in the District. The nationalised banks are expected to play very important and more active role in the economic rejuvenation of the District. As a catalytic agent they have to function by making differential contribution to those sectors which have been accorded high priority in the development. A more purposeful

regulation of credit is the first thing that can be expected of them. It is expected that the Centre chosen and to be chosed for location of the bank branches in future should have the potential of ultimately emerging as 'Growth Centres.'

Government Finance

Under the present system and structure, financing of agriculturists has been undertaken by the District Central Co-operative Bank, on behalf of the Government. The financial assistance provided by the Government under various Acts or Schemes in the District from 1947-48 to 1963-64 is given in the Appendix 'D'.

The short and descriptive account of the main purveyors of credit in the old financial set up as well as of new agencies which have come into existence in comparatively recent times, and of government efforts in providing the financial assistance in the District, clearly reveals the fact that looking to the credit need in the field of production and distribution during the gestation period of their operation the assistance given in insufficient.

Small Saving Schemes

The organisations attracting and mobilising the savings in the District may be grouped as (1) Post Office Saving Schemes and (2) Life Indurance. The following small scale schemes continued their operations in the District: (1) Post Office Saving Bank Account (2) 12 Year National Plan Certificates (3) 10 Year Treasury Savings Deposits (4) 15 Year Annuity Certificates and (5) Cumulative time Deposit Scheme.

The gross and net deposits in the said schemes in the District for a period of five years are as follows:—

April to March	Gross (Rs)	Net (Rs)	Target (Rs.)
1963-64	1,84,05,008	1,26,35,400	71 lakhs
	(1,20,63,794)	(62,39,949)	
1964-65	1,77,07,830	1,14,74,176	132 lakhs
	(1,84,05,008)	(1,26,35,400)	
1965-66	2,33,75,631	1,59,52,399	152 lakhs
	(1,87,07,830)	(1,24,74,176)	
1966-67	2,76,82,236	1,91,35,218	200 lakhs
	(2,33,75,631)	(1,59,52,399)	
1967-68	2,68,52,190	1,77,71,236	190 lakhs
	(2,76,82,236)	(1,91,35,218)	

(The figures in brackets given are of those of Reserve Bank of India. Rest are from Head Post-Office).

The small savings per capita at the 1961 population rate is approximately Rs. 3½ and Rs. 7 only for the year 1963-64, and 1967-68 respectively.

Life Insurance

The other important source of attracting savings is Life Insurance Policies. Life Insurance Corporation of India opened its branch in Durg only in August, 1959. The following Table gives the business completed, number of policies issued and the premium collected by the Life Insurance Corporation since its inceptions—

Year	Business completed (Rs.)	No. of policies issued	Amount of Average Policy issued
1960	1,21,65,500	3,070	3,974
1961	2,13,78,500	4,337	4,974
1962-63	2,88,83,800	4,926	5,895
1963-64	2,72,21,650	6,692	4,063
1964-65	2,92,49,000	4,849	5,590
1965-66	3,64,26,250	4,584	7,919
1966-67	69,53,500	1,057	6,500
1967-68	82,51,500	1,121	7,500
1968-69	78,27,500	1,186	6,500
1969-70	70,91,500	1,096	6,500

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has now also undertaken fire, marine, and other general insurance business with effect from 1st April, 1964. The other General Insurance Companies operated in the District with their headquarters at Raipur and placed only Inspectors in the District. The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., started its working only from 1st April, 1965 and during the year 1965, the total premium collected and claims paid by them were Rs. two lakhs and one lakh, respectively. The Oriental Fire and General Insurance Co. Ltd., also started its Inspectorate Office at Rajnandgaon and Bhilai and premium income of the District was approximately Rs. 70,000 in the year 1966-67.

Other Financial Institutions

There is no stock exchange in the District. The District is, however, being served by a branch of Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation (Indore) since 1969 at Raipur. This branch will improve liaision with the Directorate of Industries and ensure better coverage of the districts of Raipur Division. As on 31st March, 1970 the Corporation sanctioned a loan of Rs. 7.70 lakhs to 6 small scale industries, and Rs 33.97 lakhs to 7 other concerns. The amount disbursed on that date was Rs. 6.85 lakhs to 6 small scale industries and Rs. 24.42 lakhs to 7 other concerns.

STATE ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The State assistance to industries under co-operative sector has been dealt with earlier. The Madhya Pradesh Finance Corporation granted loans to the tune

of Rs. 4,90,000 Rs. 20,000 Rs. 4,00,000 and Rs. 1,50,000 in the year 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63 and 63-64, respectively, in the District for manufacturing of iron and steel castings, ingots, agricultural implements component parts for steel plants, construction of buildings, purchase of machinery etc. to small scale industries.

During the Third Plan period, under Rural Industries Project the following achievements were made:—

1.	(a) Loan given under State Aid to Industries		Rs. 4,54,483	
	(b) Loan given under Khadi and village Industries Board	Loan	Rs. 11,23,016	
		Subsidy	Rs. 1,85,391	
	(c) Plan Scheme			
	(1) Establishment of Industrial Estates		1. Durg	
			2. Bhilai	
			3. Rajnandgaon	
	(2) Establishment of Rural work-sheds		1. Balod	
			2. Dongargarh	
2.	Power subsidy granted to Industries		Rs. 55,729 to 62 units	
3.	Organisation of Industrial Co-operative Societies		74	
4.	Registration of small scale industries		280	
5.	Machines supplied on hire purchase basis		Rs. 47,40,315 to 78 units	
6.	Controlled commodities allotted to the industrial units		(1) Cement	3094.00 m. ton
			(2) Pig-iron	2133.00 „
			(3) Iron & Steel	240.520 „
			(4) Copper	237.662 „
			(5) Zince	90.350 „
			(6) Tin	06.039 „
			(7) Lead	1.745 „

Currency and Coinage

The primary unit of currency under the Ratanpur kingdom was *Rupia* although the revenue was paid in cowries.[1] The number of cowrees which the central authority accepted as representing a value of one rupee, was a constantly varying equivalent, and introduced a fertile source of confusion in to all the old accounts. The ordinary cowree circulation was as follows:—

20 *cowrees* equal to 1 *boree*

10 *borees* equal to 1 *dogannee*

16 *dogannees* equal to 1 rupee

As a medium of revenew realization however, the rupee va'ue of *cowrees* ranged from 8 to 24 *dogannees*. It is said that before the Maratha conquest the old local rate at which *cowrees* were paid as revenue into the Treasury, never

1. Raipore District (including Southern part of Durg) Settlement Report, 1889, p. 17.

rose above 12 *dogannees* for the rupee, and that the Maratha Raja Bhimbaji raised the rate upto 24 *dogannees*. Here then though in rupee value the revenue continued to figure at the same amount in point of fact it was doubled. Of course, if rupees had been accepted in payment of revenue, the equivalent in cowrees to whatever extent manipulated would have mattered little. But the Treasury took *cowrees* only which were exchanged advantageous with the shroffs for silver, while the shroffs in their turn added out *cowrees* to the *malguzars* (village landlords) at profitable rates of exchange. The arrangement, it is evident, was a ruinous and oppressive one to the common people.[1]

When the area was annexed by the British in 1854 the coins prevalent in British India were extended to this region. The British rupee was slightly higher in value and was equivalent to 16 *annas* or 64 *paise* or 192 *pies*. The decimal system of currency is in operation since 1957 and old transactions are now being made in new currency.

TRADE

In the pre-Independence era (particularly upto 1931) in this District most of the transactions were carried on in grain, which shows that the economic system had only just emerged from the state of barter. Agricultural labourers were paid in grain, and beyond rent and the purchase of certain articles of clothing, and jewellery, there were few purposes for which money was used. Tenants kept with them sufficient supply of grain for their food and other requirements, and usually sold grain in small quantities to the local petty traders when money was required. In other words, marketable surplus of their produce was negligible and thus exchange-economy was insignificant. It is not possible to give accurate trade figures because a very large proportion of the grain that left the District was exported from stations outside the District limits. Tilda and Bhatapara stations between themselves attracted the whole of the supplies produce of the northern portions of Bemetara Tahsil, while much of the grain of the Western half of Sanjari Balod Tahsil and Arjunda tract of Durg Tahsil was carried to Nandgaon-Ganj, that of the eastern half of sanjari-Balod tahsil to Dhamtari, and that of the Bhilai and Patan tracts of Durg tahsil to Raipur. During this period, the trade of the District consisted in the out-flow or export of the surplus agricultural produce, chiefly rice, wheat and oil-seeds and the in-flow or imports of the necessaries of life, e. g. cotton, cloth, sugar, kerosine oil, etc

A more clear picture of the trade and commercial activities of the District therefore, emerged only after the attainment of Independence particularly with the beginning of Five Year Plans and opening of the Bhilai Steel Plant in the District.

The census statistics of 1951 and 1961 reveal that trade and commerce provided a primary source of livelihood to 10,542 persons and 20,135 persons,

1. Balaspore District (including northern part of Durg) Settlement Report, 1868, p. 91

respectively. It means that with the opening of the Bhilai Steel Plant and other auxilliary industries in the District, trading and commercial activities also increased and during the decade they showed an increase of about 100 per cent. The persons engaged in whole sale trade, retail trade and miscellaneous trade and commmerce activities in 1951 were 63; 10,210; and 269, respectively, while in 1961 the number was 3,605; 6,099; and 431, respectively. This break-up of trading and commercial activities in the decade 1951-1961, indicates the abnormal increase in the number of persons engaged in the whole-sale trade activities almost fifty times increase in ten years. Even then the share of trade and commerce in the economy of the District is very insignificant, being less than 2 per cent. Out of 55 workers in the District only one was engaged in trade and commerce in the year, 1961.

Course of Trade

Agriculture is still the main-stay of the economy of Durg District. Paddy is the main crop grown and it is estimated that on an average about 3 lakh tons of rice-equivalent of paddy is produced in the District out of which 10 per cent to 20 per cent is exported to non-rice producing districts of the State and to Gujarat and Maharashtra States. Processing of paddy into rice and its bye-products like *poha-murmuhra* or *murra* and *lai* provide employment to significant proportion of population in Durg and Rajnandgaon.

Forests play an important role in the economy of the District and considerable revenue accures to the state treasury every year from auctions of timber, *tendu* leaves and other forest products. Timber and *Tendu* leaves are mainly exported outside the District.

Other manufactured items like hand-loom cloth, shoes, blankets and baskettry are a more or less consumed in the District. Ghee is exported to Bilaspur and Raipur frm Kawardha. With the full fledged opreration of Bhilai Steel Plant, mining activities increased considerably resulting in the export of pig-iron and other commodities to other steel plants of the country also. The finished products of the Bhilai Steel Plant are now being exported even to foreign countries.

Since the individual economic entity of the places is fast disappearing with the rapid increase of means of transport and communications, particularly of road transportation, it is difficult to mention in alsolute terms the out-flow or exports and inflow or imports of the commodities from and to the District. However, to have a general idea, a Table given in Appendix A shows the outward and inward transmission of some important commodities on the important Railway stations of the District in the year, 1964-65.

Export from Bhilai Steel Plant

Bhilai Steel Plant, one of the three integrated steel Plants of the Hindustan Steel Limited, is the biggest Steel Works in India to-day. The plant was put up with technical and economic collaboration of the Soviet Union.

Bhilai is making significant contribution towards export promotion since 1959-60 thereby earning valuable foreign exchange. Particular mention may be made of rails which have been exported to Sudan, Malaysia, China, Iran, Turkey, New Zealand and South Korea, and ribbed sole plates to Egypt, after fabrication by an Indian firm in Calcutta.

The products of Bhilai Steel Plant have reached the eastern as well as western hemispheres and we can rightly say that Bhilai goes ROUND THE WORLD. Exports from Bhilai during the years 1967-68 to 1969-70 aggregated to one 2.1 million tonnes of steel and pig iron besides sizeable quantity of chemicals and other by-products. The details of volume and trend of Bhilai Steel products has been given in the Appendix. 'A

Imports

As shown previously the main-items of imports in the District are the necessities of life, e.g. cloth, *Kirana* goods, hosiery, leather goods, sugar and general merchandise. Moreover, with the inception of the Bhilai Steel Plant and its expansion scheme, building-construction material, raw minerals, machinery, equipment and their spare parts. refractories and like material generally used for industries, are also the main items of goods inflowing the District. The Table given in Appendix A explains the trend and course of imports in the district in 1964-65.

Under the Bhilai Steel Plant expansion scheme goods worth crores of rupees on Rouble Credit Contracts are coming from Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. During the year 1965-66, total value of purchase orders placed for imported items was of about Rupees 41,00,000.

Though the in-flow of commodities is entered in the municipal records, the figures of volume and value of commodities reacting there from outside the District boundaries are not indicated.

The above brief description of courses of imports and exports of main commodities of the District indicates the changing pattern of trading and commercial activities of the District. Though dealing in agricultural commodities occupies a prominent position and the trade and commerce in the District is taking new directions after Independence reflecting the growing prosperity.

Marketing

Marketing is of tremendous significance to the economy of a country. Its efficient organisation is vital to the health and well being of a community. The whole programme of production individually or collectively with all efforts would be of no value if it is not followed by a safe and sound marketing. Unless means could be found to move goods from the producer to the consumer at a price which represents a fair remuneration to the producer, and is within the consumer's ability to pay, all other efforts in the field of production are nullified. Till the beginning of the Second World War, the problem of marketing was not a serious

one in the District, as the economy was largely a subsistence economy, when farmers produced crops for their own consumption rather than with a view to selling them in the market. Life was simple, calm and contented. No complicated problems of marketing were involved in the economy. But the entire economic fabric has since undergone a very great change, almost revolutionary in character. Marketing has come to the forefront and it is recognised as the crux of the economic problem.

Till late, the District suffered from a variety of weights and measures, paucity of good and efficient means of transportation and communications, sub-standardisation of produce or mixing superior and inferior produce, want of storage facilities, and a general lack of information in rural areas with regard to market conditions. Moreover, large numbers of middle-men, influence of village bankers and *sahukars* and weak bargaining capacity were the main reasons, which came in the way of efficient working of the organisation of the markets in the District. With all these circumstances traders indulged in fraudulent and mal-practices of varied kinds and exploited the poor producers.

Trade Centres

Though efforts were made to regulate the business transacted at important *mandies* or markets, results were not very effective. The District has only one regulated mandi by the end of the year, 1967.

The important whole-sale and retail market centres of the District are Arjunda, Balod, Bemetara, Chhuikhadan, Dongargarh, Durg, Kawardha, Khairagarh, Patan and Rajnandgaon, Rajhara Dalli a mining colony is also fast developing as retail-marketing centre.

Fairs and Melas

Fairs and melas play an important role in business transactions. Though the District has no fair or mela of all-India or State-wise importance quite a good number are being held in the District through out the year. Appendix A. gives the names of the important fairs held in the District, alongwith other details.

CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING

It is increasingly recognised that the co-operative form of organisation can play a significant and predominant role in improving the system of agricultural marketing. The importance of co-operative agency has assumed added significance in view of the decision of the Government to undertake large-scale programme of procurement of food-grains and putting emergency levy on producers suitably graded to the size of holdings.

Co-operative marketing is of recent origin. Till the end of the First Plan it did not exist in the true sense of the term. Though co-operative marketing societies of Durg, Bemetara and Balod established themselves as far back as 1939,

1944 and 1949 respectively, they confined their activities only to the sale of the consumer goods and distribution of fertilisers and agricultural implements. The societies did not lay any emphasis on the marketing of the members' produce which was their primary function. They concentrated their attention on the supply and distribution of controlled commodities.

It was only during the Second Plan period that the organisation of marketing societies was taken in hand and since then remarkable progress has taken place in the sphere of co-operative marketing societies one in each tahsil, except, Kawardha tahsil in the District, while Khairagarh tahsil has two societies at Khairagarh and Dongargarh. Foodgrains, pesticides and insecticides, agricultural implements, hard-ware, kerosene oil and kirana articles are the main commodities in which they are dealing. Co-operative marketing society, Durg, Balod and Bemetara are also distributing the fertilisers on behalf of the Appex Marketing Society, Jabalpur. The balance sheet as it stood on 30th June, 1969, giving details of the working of all these marketing societies are given in Appendix A.

Ware-housing Activities

Mahdya Pradesh Ware-housing Corporation started the centres in the District at Rajnandgaon (14-11-1958), Durg (1-10-1959), Dongargarh (20-10-1960), and Nandai (Jan. 1964). At Durg and Rajnandgaon, the Corporation has its own constructed capacity of 2,655 metric tons, and 3,300 metric tons, respectively. The storage capacity at Dongargarh and Nandai is fluctuable because the godowns are taken on hire according to the arrival of the stock for deposit. At these centres, ten per cent discount is allowed to co-operative societies and empty gunny bags are provided to the agriculturists on hire. The details regarding the goods handled at these centres of the District are given in Appendix A.

State Trading

By the end of March, 1968 there were 303 and 270 Fair Price Shops functioning in urban and rural areas respectively of this District. Food grain at the rate of 2 Kgs. of rice, 3 Kgs. of wheat, 1 Kg. of Milo, per unit per month were being issued to the consumers through these Fair Price Shops. Sugar was issued at the rate of 500 Grams per unit in urban areas, 400 Grams in semi-urban areas, per unit per month, and in rural areas 500 Grams of sugar per month per family.

Merchants and Consumer's Associations

In this District people have formed associations for their routine working. These associations are Grain Merchants' Association, Kirana Merchants' Association, Cloth Merchants' Associations, Truck Owners' Association etc. But these are not registered. As far as consumers' Associations are concerned, they function for controlled commodities for some time and then cease to function no sooner than the controls are lifted. In the same manner, the District suffers yet from the want of any organ or newspaper for disemination of trade news.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Old Weights and Measures.

According to the Settlement Report 1903 of Durg Tahsil, the following scales of grain measures were in general use in the District:—

1 *Pawai*=4$\frac{9}{16}$ *Chattacks*..

2 *Adhelia*=2. *Pawais* or 9 *Chattacks*.

1 *Paili or Chauthia*=2 *adhelia* or 18¼ *Chattacks*.

1 *Katha* =4 *Pailis* or 4 *seers* 9 *Chhattacks*.

1 *Khandi*=20 *Kathas* or 91¼ *seers*

1 *Gara* or Cartload=20 *Khandis*.

The above equivalents in weight were for husked rice. A *katha* of *dhan* or seed-rice weighed 3 *seers* 4 *chattacks*. Generally a *khandi* of *dhan* gave 10½ *khathas* of husked rice, and difference in measurement was therefore, nearly 50 per cent. However, there was no uniformity of weights and measures in the District. In Durg town a large *katha* containing 5 seers of rice had been introduced with another measure of one seer known as *Kangan*. There was also a small *katha* containing only 3 seers of grain by which payments were made to farmer servants and field labourers. A *nagar* or plough of land was as much as two bullocks and two buffaloes can cultivate and varied from 20 to 25 acres. A quarter of *nagar* was known as a *pao*. An acre of land took 12 *kathas* of rice as seed-grain. In this area one *kos* was equivalent to 3 miles, and the ordinary *kos* of two miles was known as *gookos*.

Though Weights and Measures Act, 1878 was in force in the area, uniformity in the weights and measurements were made more effective with the introduction of the Central Provinces and Berar Weights and Measures of Capacity Act (No. II of 1928). Accordingly, the primary standard of weight was a *ser* a weight in metal when weighed in vaccum, equivalent to 14,400 grains as determined under section 14 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1878. Similarly, the primary unit of capacity was *Paili*, containing five-sixteenths of a gallon of water as determined under the same Act. The multiples and submultiples of primary standards of weights were as under:—

Man	=	40 *Seers*
Ser	=	16 *Chhattacks*
Chhattacks	=	5 *Tloas*
Tola	=	12 *Mashas*
Masha	=	8 *Rattis*.

The multiples of measures of Capacity were one-half part of the *paili* called *adholi*, a katha equal to four pailis, and a *kuro* measuring eight *pailies*.

A landmark in the history of weights and measures was, however, made with the introduction of Madhya Pradesh Weights and Measures (enforcement) Act, in 1959. Accordingly, the provisions of the said Act in respect of unit of mass' (metric weights) was made applicable in this District from 1st April, 1961 and made compulsory from 1st April, 1962. In the same manner, Metric Length Measures were introduced from 1st April 1961, and made compulsory with effect from 1st April, 1962. The Metric Capacity Measures (conical and cylindrical data) were introduced with effect from 1st April, 1962, and the use was made compulsory on 1st April, 1963. Provisions of the Act in respect of volume and area were introduced in the district from 1st October, 1962 with a transitional period of six months. Whereafter, both these units were made compulsory from 1st April, 1963, excluding transactions, regarding land in case of the unit or area.

The main conversion is thus:

(a) The *seer* was replaced by the Kilogram.

(b) The yard was replaced by the Metre.

(c) The *seer* (liquid measure) was replaced by the Litre.

The use of all the old weights and measures has been stopped through out the District. This has put an end to the variety of weights and measures adopted at different places and markets of the Disrict. The majority of the traders (except of very interior places) are making all their transactions only in metric weights, and measures. The switch-over to metric measures has been smooth. The traders have understood the Act and Rules, and they produce all their weights and mea-measures, etc., for the periodical re-verification and stamping, when due, to the concerning authorities.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Ancient Routes and Highways

Not much is known about the early road communication in Durg District except what can be gathered from a few casual references found in the historical writings. In ancient period Gurur[1] village about 72.5 km south-east of Durg was, probably, on one of the important land routes crossing this region. Cunningham thought that once an important road started near Bhandak or Dewalwara and it branched off into two at Gurur, one going to Ganjam, *via* Kanker, Sihawa and Jaugada which has an Asokan edict and the other to Cuttack, *via* Rajim and Savaripura. There are no references to the road communication in the mediaeval period.

A significant change in the field of road communication came about the middle of the 19th century when the British assumed charge of administration. Most of the existing main roads with their bridges and culverts were constructed during the British administration. The roads opened in the beginning were only *Kutcha* roads, metalling being done later on. The construction of several branch and feeder roads was taken up and more roads were opened from time to time.

The earliest authentic description of roads is available from the year 1862 onwards. The only road of significance passing through the District was the Great Eastern Road from Nagpur to Sambalpur *via* Raipur. The construction of this road was taken up by the Maratha administration which had appointed European Engineers to supervise the work. This road formed a part of the Postal line from Bombay to Calcutta. It had a branch leading from Suhela near Sambalpur to join the Mahanandi at Binka near Sonepur. The road had, besides commercial, some political and military importance also. This road connects the most promising part of the region with the Mahanadi the other great natural outlet and highway. Its early completion stimulated agricultural production and enhanced the economic conditions of the cultivators. It traversed, from end to end, the two richest, longest and best cultivated tracts in the Central Provinces, namely the valley of Wainganga and the Chhattisgarh plain. This has always been the main channel for export and import into the District.[2]

In 1888-89, a Road Committee was appointed by the Government of the

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1. Archaeological Survey Report, Vol. VII, p. 148
2. C. P. Administration Report, 1862, p. 59

Central Provinces to formulate a road programme based on a definite policy. This let to a vigorous expansion of road construction.

In 1903, besides the Great Eastern Road, other roads that existed in the District were mentioned in the Land Revenue Settlement Report of 1896-1902. The principal feederroads were from Durg through Nankatti and Dhamda into the then Simga tahsil, through Deokar and Deorbija linking up at Bemetara with the Simga-Kawardha link. From Dhamda a branch ran to Gandai. From Durg a road led in south to Gunderdehi and another road ran in south-eastern direction to Dhamtari. The village of Arjunda was linked up with Rajnandgaon through Dondi-Lohara, direct communication between Dhamda and Raipur was provided for by the Kumhari-Patharai Road, and a link between the south of this tahsil and Rajnandgaon was provided by the Rajnandgaon-Deokar project. Work on these feeder roads provided the backbone of Government's relief works during the famines of 1889 and 1900. It was experienced during the famines of 1889 and 1900. It was experienced during the famine relief works that the roads could be constructed without much difficulty but to keep these in proper form required concentrated efforts. Even metalled roads, whose surface was not sufficiently thick and well rammed, were soon ploughed up by the narrow wheels of the bullockcarts and consequently in a few months the surface of the road is turned in to an incoherent mass of loose stones which hurts the hoofs of the cattle and thereby reduces the movement speed of the carts. Therefore, country bullock-carts avoided movement over metalled roads and usually made for themselves a softer track alongside.

In Nandgaon State, the principal road was the Great Eastern Road which passed through the State from Anjora on the border for about 52 miles. There were 144 miles of roads maintained by the State.[1] The other second class roads were from Rajnandgaon towards Bastar State, Ambagarh-Chauki and Khairagarh. The total length of roads maintained by the Khairagarh State was 79 miles, of which 38 miles were second class and the rest third class and Rs. 4,000 were spent annually on maintainence.[2] Chhuikhadan State was maintaining 18 miles (29 km.) of roads and Rs. 1675 were spent annually.[3] The important roads in Kawardha State were from Kawardha through Bemetara and Simga to Tilda, Kawardha to Dongargarh *via* Chhuikhadan and Khairagarh, and the third was the Bilaspur-Mandla road which passed through the State. The first two were second class roads and the third was fair-weather road. There were also six third class roads which were used for village traffic in the open season.[4]

By the year 1912 the following important roads were in existence in the District.

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, p. 99
2. Ibid p. 122
3. Ibid p. 138
4. Ibid p. 154

1. The Great Eastern Road which linked up Rajnandgaon, Durg and Raipur

This road runs near the railway, and is metalled and bridged throughout except over large streams such as the Sheonath and the Kharun where in the open season temporary causeways are constructed over these.

2. The Durg-Dhamda-Bemetara Road.

This is not metalled throughout and the *nallas* are crossed on causeways. The road serves the northern portion of the District. From Dhamda a branch turns off to Gandai where it meets with the Rajnandgaon-Khairagarh-Kawardha road.

3. Kawardha-Bemetara-Simga Road

This road meets with the Durg-Bemetara Road at Bemetara, connects the northern portion of the District and also the Feudatory State of Kawardha with the Railway either by way of Tilda station or Raipur station both being connected with Simga road.

4. The Kumhari-Patharia Road.

This is murram road which connects Dhamda with Raipur; it branches off from the Great Eastern Road, 10 miles (16.1 km.) from Raipur and joins the Durg-Dhamda road, 17 miles (27.3 km.) from Durg, and 4 miles (6.4 km.) from Dhamda.

5. Deokar Rajnandgaon Road

There is a road under construction from Deokar on the Durg-Bemetara Road to Rajnandgaon.

6. Durg-Gunderdehi-Balod Road

This runs due south from Durg and serves all the central portion of the south of the District. It is partly metalled.

7. Durg-Utai Road

It is all *murram* and follows the course of the old Durg-Dhamtari road, only 9 miles (14.5 km.) have been constructed. Utai is an important *bazar*.

8. The Rajnandgaon-Antagarh Road

This serves the south-western portion of the District. It is not bridged and the *nalla* crossing are not, as a rule, paved but it is quite a good road.

9. The Lohara-Balod-Dhamtari Road

This branches off from the Rajnandgaon-Antagarh road at Lohara 22 miles (35.2 Km.) from Rajnandgaon, and connects the southern portion of the District with the railway at Dhamtari. It is not much used at present, as the course

of traffic is towards the markets on the main line, Dhamtari being mostly given over to the trade in forest produce.[1]

In addition to the roads described above, there were a number of cart-tracks which traversed the District and along which a large volume of traffic moved. The most important of these were the two tracks from Bemetara to Durg and Raipur. The condition of the former was better as it passed mostly over hard gravel after crossing the southern bank of the Sheonath, whereas the latter ran almost entirely through the black soil. But the popularity of Raipur market made the road more serviceable and useful.

With the constitution of Village Panchayats in 1914, the opening of village communications received a great stimulus and consequently there were large additions to the road length. When municipalities were established, all the roads within the municipal areas were transferred to the respective Municipal Councils for maintenance. Similarly, all roads, which were strictly village roads and were originally maintained by the Public Works Department, were also transferred to the respective Village Panchayats.

In the year 1933 Road Transport continued to be the chief method of movement of goods in the interior of the District. The road system was considered then to be satisfactory mainly due to numerous constructions during the great famines of 1896-1901. At the time of the final resettlement of Durg District (1928 32) the District was considered to be well off in the matter of road communications. In fact it was much better than any other part of the Chhattisgarh region. Durg, the District headquarters, was the centre of a net work of roads radiating out to all parts of the District. There was the Great Eastern Road connecting Durg with Rajnandgaon in the west and Raipur in the east, the Bemetara and Balod Roads bringing it into touch with the two outlying tahsil headquarters and the Durg-Utai-Patan road which tapped the south-eastern portion of Durg tahsil. The direct communication between Durg and Raipur was established by the Gandai Dhamda and Pathari-Kumbari roads—both being unmetalled at that time. In addition there were numerous forest routes in the forest infested areas and one could reach almost any place by a vehicle in open season.

In all there were 219 km. of first class roads at the time of the Settlement. In addition, three excellent bridges were constructed by 1932 on the Sheonath river-one within 4.8 km of Durg, the second at Dhamda and the third at Nandghat.

Post-Independence Period.

The road communication programme was further strengthened in the District during the First and Second Plan period. The following work was taken up during the first two Five Year Plans period

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1. Durg Final Settlement Report, 1912, pp. 3—4

1.	Length black-topped from 1951 to 1961	299.25 km.
2.	Upgraded from Class II to Class I	375.32 km.
3.	Upgraded from Class III to Class II	58.15 km.
4.	Bridges and Culverts constructed (1951-61)	83.7 km.

The total length of the roads by the end of the Second Plan period in the District was 1,477.5 km.

Third Plan

An approximate amount of Rs. 85.51 lakhs was spent, during the Third Plan period in the District. The following were the important schemes under the Plan.

1. New Metalled Roads

(a) Incomplete Works of the Second Plan

Under this scheme, work on the following incomplete roads was continued during the Third Plan.

(i) Khairagarh-Jalbamda Road
(ii) Rajnandgaon-Dhumka Road
(iii) Gupsal-Ambagarh Road
(iv) Gandai-Saletekari Road
(v) Nawagarh-Bemetara Road

The total length of all the five roads for construction was 56.3 km. and an amount of about Rs. 9.25 lakhs was spent for this purpose.

(b) New Works

Under this scheme Khairagarh-Lanji Road with total length 32.2 km. was taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.00 lakhs.

2. Upgrading of Existing Roads

(a) Incomplete Works of the Second Plan

The work on the following roads. which was taken up during the Second Plan period, continued during the Third Plan.

(i) Kharsara-Khamaria-Silapari Road
(ii) Chhuikhadan-Salahatti-Kawardha Road
(iii) Kawardha-Pondi Road
(iv) Kawardha-Champa Road. and a link road to Kodra village
(v) Garhchirdi-Dhanora-Murumgaon-Balod Road
(vi) Utai-Patan Road

(vii) Bemetara-Nawagarh Road

(viii) Scarcity Works on Roads.

It was planned to complete these works totalling 165 km. at a cost of Rs. 23.49 lakhs.

(b) New Works

Under this item work on the following roads was taken up during the Third Plan period.

(i) Gandai-Dhamdha Road

(ii) Sirkoha-Piparia Road

The total length of these roads was 37 km and the total estimated cost was Rs. 4.60 lakhs.

3. Widening and Tarring of Existing Roads

(a) Incomplete Works of the Second Plan

Under this item of work the following four roads were continued.

(i) Improvement of Bichhia-Kawardha Road

(ii) Lohara-Rajnandgaon Road

(iii) Balod-Kusumkasa Road

(vi) Repairs of the National Highway falling within the jurisdiction of Durg Municipality.

The total expenditure of Rs. 13.71 lakhs was earmarked for this purpose.

(b) New Roads:

The roads from Durg to Balod and Kawardha-Mandla road upto the District boundary was taken up for construction, the total length being 72.5 km. at a total cost of Rs. 5.40 lakhs.

4. Construction of new Fair-Weather Roads

The following five roads were taken up during the period under this scheme.

(i) Saji-Silehati Road

(ii) Gunderdehi-Dhamtari Road

(iii) Rajnandgaon-Arjunda Road

(iv) Kumhari-Pathatla Road

(v) Umaria-Dhadhighura Road

The Total length of all these works was 112.7 km. and the total estimated cost was Rs. 3.50 lakhs.

5. Bridges and Culverts

(a) Incomplete Works of the Second Plan

Under this item work on 11 roads was continued at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.56 lakhs for constructing 174 minor bridges and one major bridge. The roads selected were:—

(i) Khairagarh-Jalbanda Road
(ii) Rajnandgaon-Ghumka Road
(iii) Ghupsal-Awahgarh Chowki Road
(iv) Gandai-Saletakeri Road
(v) Karesara-Khamari-Silehati Road
(vi) Chhuikhadan-Silehati-Kawardha Road
(vii) Kawardha-Pondi Road
(viii) Kawardha-Ghuspsal Road and link road to Kodra village
(ix) Dhanora-Murumgaon Road
(x) Utai-Patan Road
(xi) Bemetara-Nawagarh Road
(xii) Scarcity works.

For construction of major bridges two roads were selected namely. (i) A bridge over the *Silehati* river on Chhuikhadan-Silehati-Kawardha Road. (ii) Bridge on kilometre 104.6 over the Funk river on Mandla-Bilaspur Road.

(b) New Works

Under this scheme it was proposed to construct a minor bridge on Khairagarh-Lanji Road and the major bridge each over the Jonknullah on Mandla-Bilaspur Road and over the Tendul river 56.3 km. on Durg-Balod Road. An expenditure of Rs. 4.00 lakhs was earmarked for this purpose.

6. Metalling of Umetalled Roads

Under this item an amount of Rs. 1.65 lakhs for a length of 16.9 km. was earmarked for incomplete works of the Second Plan and Rs. 50,000 were earmarked for a length of 16.10 km.

ROAD TRANSPORT

Surface-wise Road Length

The road surface in the District had undergone much improvement due to intensive efforts taken by the State Government during the plan period. The table given below shows the details of surface on different roads from the year 1962-63 to 1966-67.

Surface	1962-63	Length in Different years (km.) 1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
1. Bituminous	321.61	329.50	397 49	426.63	434.11
2. Water bound mecadum	628.51	627.39	554.81	297.16	346.25
3. Natural soil (fair weather Motorable)	300.94	294.10	283.32	296.19	262.72
4. Natural Soil (Un-motorable)	155.30	42.65	42.65	19.00	30.58

Total Road Length

The table below shows the progress of Roads in recent years and the maintenance charges from 1963-64 to 1966-67.

Year	Total length		Total maintenance charges.
	Metalled Km.	Un-metalled Km.	
1962		341.98	9,35,362
1963-64	836.03	335.15	11,09,367
1964-65	831.20	325.88	17,78,234
1965-66	830.40	327.09	20,17,737
1966-67	854.14	286.86	—

In 1965-66, the length of roads per 100 sq. km. of area (as on 1st April, 1965) in the District for surfaced and unsurfaced roads, was 4.8 km. and 1.7 km. respectively in comparison to Madhya Pradesh's average of 5 5 km and 2.2 km. In the year 1966-67, the total length of metalled and unmettalled road in the District was about 853 km. and 327 km. respectively.

Thus, by the end of March, 1967, the District was served with 121.5 km. of National Highways, 328 km. of State Highways 309.54 km of Major District Roads, 172.6 km of Minor District Roads, 275.7 km of community Development Block Roads and 758.3 km. of Forest Roads,

National Highways

The only National Highway traversing the District is the Bombay-Calcutta Road. It runs for 75.25 miles (121.15 km.) within the District. Prior to the construction of the Railway, this road was the great highway of commerce and it still maintains that position. The whole length is bituminous. The road is maintained by the State Government on an agency basis and the Central Government pays 7.5 per cent as agency charges.

The road is also known as the Great Eastern Road. It enters the District boundary from Nagpur side after crossing the Baghnadi (kilometre 150.8) and continues towards Rajnandgon on the right. It reaches Rajnandgaon, the tahsil headquarters in kilometre 212. From there it continues further towards Durg, the District headquarters, passing through Anjora Village. It then crosses the Sheonath river in kilometre 237. In kilometre 230, there is a bifurcation. A branch road towards the right leads to Balod. The main road reaches Durg in kilometre 240-241. It further proceeds towards Raipur District and leaves the District beyond Kumhari village and railway station (kilometre 267) and enters Raipur District after crossing the Kharan river.

State Highways

The totallength of the State Highways in the District as on 31st March 1967 was 328.7 kilometres. These roads are in fairly good condition and are maintained by the State Government.

The following are the important roads falling under this category.

S. No.	Name of road	Kilometre
1.	Simga-Bemetara-Kawardha	72.5
2.	Mandla-Bilaspur	49.6
3.	Rajnanagaon-Antagarh	79.00
4.	Rajnandgaon-Khairagarh-Dongargarh	39.00
5.	Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan	12.9
6.	Chhuikhadan-Sahaspur-Lohara-Kawardha	62.8
7.	Kawardha-Pondi	13.2

Simga-Bemetara-Kawardha Road

The road runs in continuation of Tilda-Simga Road and connects two important towns of Bemetara and Kawardha. It crosses the plain country where the crops grown are rice, wheat, gram, etc. It runs for 72 km. in the District. Out of which 32 km. are black topped and 40 km. are water bound *macadam*.

The road starts from Simga village in kilometre 45.1 of Raipur-Bilaspur road and turning to left, runs in north-westerly direction. It crosses the Sheonath river in kilometre 3. It reaches Bemetara village in kilometre 24, and proceeds towards Kawardha tahsil of the District.

Rajnandgaon-Antagarh Road

It runs for 79 kilometres within the District. Out of this length 10.9 are black topped and 68.1 km are waterbound macadam. It branches off from the Great Eastern Road at Kilometre 214 towards the south and runs in the District for about 79.1 km. It crosses the Sheonath river in kilometre 5, Deori village in

23, Kertha village in kilometre 26, and Lohara in kilometre 36. In kilometre 39, there is bifurcation of the road, which, going in the left connects Balod town. From kilometre 56 to 80 the road traverses through thick jungle.

Major District Roads

The total length of these roads in the District as on 31st March, 1967 was 309.54 km. These roads are in fairly good condition. The important roads under the category are as under:—

S.No.	Road	Length (Kilometre)
1.	Durg-Dhamda-Bemetara	75.03
2.	Gandai-Saletakri	32.2
3.	Durg-Gunderdehi-Balod	55.4
4.	Balod-Kusumkasa	17.3
5.	Dhanora-Mooramgaon	56.75
6.	Dhamtari-Balod	15.1
7.	Lohara-Balod	18.1
8.	Durg Station	2.8

Durg-Dhamda-Bemetara Road

The total length of this Road in the District is 75.06 kilometre, out of which 37 km. are black topped and 38 km. are waterbound *macadam*. It is an important railway feeder connecting Durg with important village Dhamda, Deokar and Deorbija. It starts from near the Post Office, at Durg, touches railway level crossing in Kilometre 3, Kondia village in kilometre 18, the Sheonath River in kilometre 29, reaching Dhamda village in kilometre 35, Kadwa village in kilometre 55 and Deobarjia village in kilometre 58.4 and finally touching Bemetara in kilometre 76.

Durg-Balod Road

The road starts from Durg town and crosses the Pulgaon *nala* having a submergible bridge. In the 4th km. there is a bfurcation—the Road, running to the right is the Great Eastern Road, It reaches village Anda in Kilometre 15. In kilometre 27, there is a bifurcation to the right leading to Arjunda and Rajnandgaon, Gunderdehi village in kilometre 29, and Sikosa village in kilometre 39. In kilometre 55, there is a bifurcation, the road turning left and leading to Adamabad for Tandula Canal reservoir. It reaches Jhalmala village in kilometre 56 and in kilometre 58 is situated Balod town.

Balod-Kusumpara Road

The total length of this road is 17.4 km. It is motorable only during dry season. It connects Kusumkasa, a village in mile 39 km. of Rajnandgaon-Antagarh Road. The road takes off from the Ranjandgaon-Antagarh Road. It mostly

traverses through a thick *jungle* area and reaches Balod. The whole length is 17.6 km. surfaced with waterbound *macadam*.

Lohara-Balod

The total length of the road is 18.1 km. and is motorable only in open season. It reaches Batrel village in kilometre 3 and mostly it passes through a plain country where rice is the principal crop. It reaches Balod at the kilometre 19.3. The whole length of the road is waterbound *macadam*.

The total length of these roads in the District as on 31st March, 1967, was 345.46 km. The following are the important roads under this category.

S.No.	Name of road	Length in Km.		Surface
1	2	3		4
1.	Saja-Khamaria Road	18.5		Unmetalled
2.	Kumhari-Patharia Road	6.4		,,
3.	Semapara-Nawagarh Road	23.3		Waterbound *macadam*
4.	Rajnandgaon-Ghumka Road	20.1		,, ,,
5.	Khairagarh-Dongargarh Road	32.6	10.06 22.00	Black topped Waterbound *macadam*
6.	Rajnandgaon-Dongargarh Road	32.6		
7.	Rajnandgaon-Dongargaon Road	52.00	16.00 36.00	Black topped Water bound *macadam*
8.	Chowki-Mohalla-Manpur Road	49.5		unmetalled
9.	Dhamdha-Gandai Road	33.8		Unmetalled
10.	Gunderdehi-Arjunda Road	12 00		Unmetalled

Village Roads

The total length of these roads in the District as on 31st March, 1967, was 172·3 km. The following are the important roads under this category:—

S.No.	Name of Road	Length (Km.)	Nature of Surface
1.	Kolwa-Saja Road	8.0	Waterbound *macadam*
2.	Omaria-Dahi Chira	18.6	Unmetalled
3.	Mohatara-Balsamund	9.6	Unmetalled
4.	Rajnandgaon-Bijetola	10.4	Unmetalled
5.	Khairagarh-Jalbandha	19.6	Waterbound *macadam*
6.	Chhuikhadan-Chhindari	8.0	Unmetalled

1	2	3		4
7.	Ataria-Dharia	16.1		Unmetalled
8.	Piparia-Jhalmala	9.6		Unmetalled
9.	Dongargaon-Kokpur-Chhuria	23.2	6.4	Waterbound *macadam*
10.	Chhuria-Banjari	14.4		Unmetalled
11.	Chichola-Chhuria	8.4		Waterbound *macadam*
12.	Dongargarh-Chichola	16.5	5.2 11.3	Waterbound *macadam* Unmetalled
13.	Birkona-Piparia	3.2		Unmetalled
14.	Durg-Potia	3.2		Unmetalled

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCES

The common modes of Vehicles and conveyances in the District are bullock-carts, cycle, rickshaws, motor Cars, buses, lorries and others. After the attainment of Independence and particularly after the beginning of Five Year Plans in the country, the facilities of transport and conveyances increased rapidly. In the year 1948-49, for instance, only 152 automobiles were registered. Since then, the number of registration increased considerably which is evident from the Table given below:—

Year	Motor-Cars	Buses	Lorries	Motor Cycles	Taxies	Others	Total
1956-57	119	17	299	60	2	31	528
1961-62	112	26	180	57	14	47	436
1965-66	1,485	140	1,571	1,309	145	407	5,057
1966-67	1,487	140	1,475	1,573	155	414	5,244
1967-68	1,543	145	1.462	2,016	170	420	5,756
1968-69	1,611	156	1,528	2,512	182	450	6,439
1969-70	1,651	164	1,602	3,411	212	490	7,533

It is estimated that by the end of Third Five Year Plan the automobile vehicles registered in the District totalled about 4,000. The impact of Bhilai Steel Plant and other industries is clear on this increase of number of automobles, particularly lorries, motor cycles and scooters.

Bicycles

The total number of Bicycles in the District as on 31st March, 1966 was 6,360. The highest number (3,542) of these was registered in Rajnandgaon Municipality.

NUMBFR OF CYCLES

Year	Durg	Chhuikhadan	Kawardha	Dongargarh	Rajnandgaon
1960-61	—	84	252	304	—
1961-62	—	—	257	294	—
1962-63	—	—	265	306	3499
1963-64	—	—	385	323	3748
1964-65	2008	—	442	350	3542
1965-66	2026	—	—	—	—
1966-67	2890	—	—	—	—
1967-68	—	—	413	—	3124
1968-69	—	—	249	—	—

Bullock-Carts

These are the most common vehicles in the rural areas, and are used for carrying persons as well as goods, for short distances. It is difficult to assess their total number in the District. The number of bullockcarts, which are used for transporting goods and carriages in the urban areas, can be seen from the Table given below from 1960-61 to 1966-67.

Year	Durg	Dongargarh	Rajnandgaon	Kawardha
1960-61	209	109	—	58
1961-62	325	135	369	59
1962-63	325	110	594	68
1963-64	402	106	603	58
1964-65	401	100	563	59
1965-66	239	—	—	68
1966-67	178	—	—	72
1967-68	—	—	340	81
1968-69	—	—	100	74
1969-70	—	—	390	72

Horse-Driven Tongas

The number of horse-driven tongas in the District is very small and it is fast decreasing due to the increased use of mechanically driven vehicles. The following Table shows the number of Horse-driven tongas in different municipalities of the District:—

Year	Durg	Rajnandgaon	Kawardha
1960-61	32	—	1
1961-62	61	8	1
1962-63	61	10	1
1963-64	61	13	2
1964-65	73	7	1
1965-66	41	—	—
1966-67	52	—	—
1967-68	—	1	1
1968-69	—	2	1

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The District is served by a good number of buses both state-owned and private.

State-owned services

Durg District is served by the buses of the Madhya Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation and Durg is the seat of the Depot headquarters, from where the buses of Corporation are plied to Bhilai, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, etc.

Private Buses

The rural routes of the District are served by privately-owned transport services which run on even *cutcha* routes and have penetrated the interior areas of the District.

RAILWAYS

Durg town is favourably situated on the main line of the South-Eastern Railway midway between Bombay and Calcutta. The main railway line cuts across the District at its narrowest point, the total length of the line being only 17.00 miles. There is also branch, from Durg to Dalli Rajahara for transport of the iron ore. By the end of March 1966, the District was served by 188 Km. of railway route, which was 1.07 km. for 100 sq. km of area, and 9.68 km. per lakh of population. The State average was 1.18 km and 14.34 km. in the same year.

History of Construction

The Nagpur-Calcutta Railway section, was previously called the Bengal-Nagpur Railway which was formed in March 1889. Before that year, the section fell under the jurisdiction of the Chhattisgarh State Railway which was of metre guage. The idea of this railway system had first been rooted in 1863 when Sir Richard Temple, the then Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, recommmended the construction of a light tramway from Nagpur to the granary of Chhattisgarh. The project was again considered and eventually in 1879 sanction

was accorded to the construction of a metre guage line from Nagpur to Rajnandgaon which was opened for traffic in 1882. By November, 1888, the conversion work of the metreguage line into broad guage was completed from Nagpur to Rajnandgaon. Eventually, the main line Nagpur-Gondia-Raipur-Bilaspur was completed by 1st January, 1891. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway was brought under direct government management from 1st October, 1944 on the termination of all contracts between the Government and the Company. The table below shows progress of the opening of the railway line:—

S.No.	Section	Date of opening	Mileage
1.	Raipur to Rajnandgaon	4-12-1888	43.13
2.	Rajnandgaon-Nagpur	1880 (metre-guage) 1881 (metre-guage) 1882 (metre-guage) 27-11-1888 (Broad-guage)	144.20

Nagpur Raipur Section (Broad Guage)

The total length of the railway line in the District is about 103 Km., and the railway stations falling within Durg District from Nagpur towards Railpur are Bortalao, Panyajobi, Dongargarh, Jatranhar, Musra, Bakal, Rajnandgaon, Permaikase, Muripur, Rasmara, Durg, Bhilainagar, Bhilai, and Kukmari.

Bhilai-Dalli-Rajahara Section

The total length of this section in the District is 85 km., and the station situated on the line are Marauda, Risama, Gunderdehi, Latabar, Balod, Kusumkasa and Dalli Rajhara.

WATER WAYS, FERRIES AND BRIDGES

Waterways

There are no large rivers of perennial flow to afford the facilities of navigation in the District. Most of the rivers dry up in summer and are mostly in the form of large nullahs and are totally unsuited for navigation.

Ferries

There were five ferries in the District on 31st March, 1968 and they were situated at the place shown below in the Table:—

S.No.	Tahsil	Name of River	Name of road on which ferry situated
1.	Balod	Tandula river	Durg-Balod Road (mile 36-3)
2.	Rajnandgaon	Kharkara river	Rajnandgaon-Antagarh Road (mile 34/1½)
3.	,,	Sheonath river	Chowki Mohalla-Marpur Road (mile 34/1)
4.	,,	Panda Nullah	Rajnandgaon-Dongargaon-Chupsal Road (mile 2/3)
5.	,,	Bagdad Nullah	,, ,, (mile 15/6)

Bridges

The important roads of the District are well provided with bridges and culverts at appropriate places so as to make them useful throughout the year. The Table below shows the number of bridges and culverts on different categories of roads during the years from 1962-63 to 1966-67.

S.No.	Name of the road	Total number of bridges, culverts and causeways				
		1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
1.	National Highways	154	154	154	154	154
2.	State Highways	174	188	217	234	247
3.	Major District Roads	265	268	269	270	270
4.	Minor District Roads	173	182	186	194	198
5	Village Roads	100	102	104	104	104

Transport By Air

There is a small air strip at Bhilai for the landing of small civilian aircrafts. The air-strip has some significance due to the situation of Bhilai Steel Plant nearby.

TRAVEL AND TOURIST FACILITIES

Rest-Houses

The District is provided with a good number of rest-houses at various important places in the District. There is also one circuit house in Durg town. In all there are 18 rest-houses located at the places listed in the Appendix.

Hotels

The District has recently grown up in the urban type of culture and therefore has a good number of hotels and eating houses situated at important places which provide meals, light refreshment, tea and dishes, etc. Bhilai town has got a good number of hotels which provide staying facilities to tourists.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES

The working of post-offices, was regulated by Act XVII of 1837 which was replaced by a similar Act XVII of 1854. This Act put the working of the post-offices on systematic lines. This Act did not introduce any changes in the District Post system the main purpose of which was to provide the means of communication between the district headquarters and other important places in the interior of District. The Post Offices were situated at the headquarters of the police-station and at the *Sadar* station. The Nazir of the District Post functioned as the office-in-charge of the District Post. There were delivery peons for the postal sub-division of the District corresponding with the police limits of the

station-house. There were dak-runners between the *Sadar* station and the station-house in the interior. When public demand grew, post-offices (under the District Post system) were established in larger and in the interior of the District. The Deputy Commissioner was in overall charge of the District Post while a senior Police Officer posted at District headquarters functioned as Inspector of District Post-Offices. The system of affixing postal stamps was also started at the same time.

Present Working and setup

The Table below depicts the number of post and telegraphs offices in the District during the years from 1960-61 to 1969-70.

Year	Head Office	Sub-Offices	Branch Office	Toral	Telegraph Office	Combined Post and Telegraph Offices
1960-61	1	22	142	165	6	11
1961-62	1	23	160	174	6	11
1962-63	1	25	168	194	10	11
1963-64	1	26	173	200	12	12
1964-65	1	27	184	212	18	12
1965-66	1	31	101	222	13	16
1966-67	1	32	194	226	13	18
1967-68	1	33	209	243	—	17
1968-69	1	35	209	245	—	23
1969-70	1	45	192	234	—	24

Radio Sets

The following Table shows the number of radio licenses issued during the years from 1960-61 to 1969-70 in the District.

Year	Lincenses
1960-61	1,322
1967-68	3,829
1968-69	29,617
1969-70	8,024

Telephones

The first telephone service was started at Rajnandgaon on 7th September, 1950, with 46 telephone connections. The second place to be provided with a telephone connection was Kumhari May, 1965, followed by Durg on 11th November, 1966 and later Khursipur. Out of these, the exchange at Durg was worked manually, Khursipur exchange was automatic and Kumhari was also worked on sub-

auto-system. From out of these exchanges only Durg has a Post Office Box System with 143 connections.

The following Table shows the yearwise growth of telephone connections in the District from 1961 to 1966-67.

Year	Number of Telephones
1961-62	646
1962-63	479
1963-64	505
1964-65	567
1965-66	562
1966-67	605

Recent Postal Expansion

The Postal Department had undertaken the uphill task of affording postal accessibility to the various places in the District and with this aim in view new Telephone Exchanges were opened at different places as shown in the following Tables.

Nature of Faculty	Name of Place	Date of opening
(a) Telegraph Office	(1) Kumhari	27-4-63
	(2) Bhilai (2nd Office)	6-4-63
	(3) Bhilai (3rd Office)	17-10-64
	(4) Gurur	25-1-64
(b) Telegraph Circuits	(1) Balod-Durg	27-3-64
	(2) Rajnandgaon-Raipur (additional)	24-10-64
	(3) Rajnandgaon-Nagpur	23-1-65
	(4) Rajnandgaon-Dongargarh	2-1-66
	(5) Kumhari	10-11-65
	(6) Pithora	8-12-66
(c) Public Call Office	(1) Bhilai (additional)	25-10-63
	(2) Kawardha	26-1-64
	(3) Rajnandgaon	27-4-64
	(4) Simga	1-11-64
	(5) Balod	15-3-65
	(6) Dongargarh	15-3-65
	(7) Khairagarh	14-11-65
	(8) Kawardha	4-12-65
	(9) Dalli Rajharra	29-1-67
	(10) Gurur	28-11-64 (contd.)

1	2	3
(d) Exchanges	(1) Kumhari (Sub-auto-system)	27-4-63
	(2) Bhilai	24-10-64
	(3) Kawardha (Magnetic Exchange)	26-1-64
	(4) Bilha (Sub-Auto-System)	19-3-64
	(5) Balod	1-11-65
	(6) Khairagarh (Sub-Auto-System)	14-11-54

RADIO AND WIRELESS STATIONS

There is no radio station in the District but the needs of the District are met with the relaytng station of All India Radio at Raipur.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

According to 1961 Census, the cultivators and agricultural labourers formed 80.19 per cent of the total "workers"[1] engaged in the different sectors of the economy of the District. The rest, 19.81 per cent of the "workers", were engaged in sectors relating to industries, commerce, transport and other services. The last named occupational group, in which falls the majority of the occupations dealt with in this Chapter, engaged only 4.39 per cent of the total "workers."

So far, no intensive survey of conditions in the various miscellaneous occupations of Durg District has been undertaken, nor Census data for 1951 and 1961 can be easily compared on account of changes in classification and coverage of different occupations. Therefore, occupational statistics as emanating from the decennial censuses have to be utilized. With an increase in the developmental activities in agriculture, industries, transport and communications, under planned economic development, services and occupations are also likely to increase. This trend is especially observed in the administrative services, teaching and public health services. The occupational data obtaining in 1961 Census broadly indicate these trends.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

In a developing economy, the administrative machinery is to be first geared up to cope up with the additional responsibilities, and it becomes indispensable in a country where the State is called upon to shoulder increasing responsibility and functions, which acquire new dimensions. In India, services under Central and State Governments as well as under Local Bodies offer substantial employment opportunities. Activities under the Community Development Programme also offer opportunities for employment to a number of administrative personnel.

According to 1951 Census, there were 234 employees of the Union Government, 1,190 of the State Government and 994 of the Local Bodies in the District.[2] In 1961, the number of persons in administrative departments and offices of the

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1. In 1961 Census "all people who worked (i. e. were economically active) including family-workers who were not in receipt of any income and working children who did not earn enough for their maintenance were treated as workers".

2. These figures do not include persons classifiable under any other division or sub-division of occupations in 1951. Census.

Central Government increased to 661. In the State Government administrative departments and offices there were 6,029 persons, while in the quasi-government organisations, Municipalities and Local Bodies, their number was 794. These figures indicate the growing opportunities of employment for entrants in public services.

Due to rising cost of living everywhere, the persons in this occupation (being fixed income-earners) are hard-pressed economically. And amongst these categories of employees, those in Central Government service are economically better off than their counter parts under the State Government and Local Bodies. This is so, because the resources of the State Government and next to them those of Local Bodies are limited, and the rising cost of living cannot be neutralized by increasing the dearness allowance to the same extent. However, the State Government servants as well as the employees of Local Bodies get dearness allowance, benefit of provident fund, gratuity, etc. Facilities for old age pension, and reimbursement of medical treatment expenses incurred on self and families also exist. For this purpose, the scope of the term "family", hitherto restricted to wife and children was extended in 1964 to include the parents, legally adopted children and step children, wholly dependent on the Government servant.[1] Housing accommodation is also provided to the Goverment servants if the nature of duty of the persons requires their presence on the place of work at all hours.

Now the children of all the class III and IV Government employees are also exempted from the payment of tuition-fees up to the first degree standard. Fifty per cent of the tuition fee is exempted in case of technical education, This benefit is being given from 1st October, 1966. A new Family Pension Scheme has also been announced which came into force from 17th August, 1966. It requires the payment at liberal rates of monthly pension to the widow/widower/children of all Government employees, who have completed even only one year of continuous service.

Due to all these benifits and other guaranteed service conditions, the educated persons are always on the look-out for entrance in this occupation. As such, there are always many times more applications for jobs in the Government service than the number of jobs available.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teachers

Amongst different occupations, a place of prime importance goes to the profession of teaching. After the establishment of National Government, great stress has been laid on education of the masses and to this end, free and compulsory primary education was introduced. A number of schools and colleges were opened during the successive Plan periods. which created a demand for a large number of

1. M. P. Government notification No. 3352/XVII/Med. (III) dated the 28th April 1964.

teachers at different stages of education. The pattern of old-time academic institutions is gradually being changed to technical education in order to fulfil the needs of the technical manpower requirements.

According to 1951 Census, the percentage of literacy in the District was.85 while in 1961, i.e., during 10 years' period, it increased to 17.95. Though encouraging, this indicates the lee-way that has to be made in achieving literacy for all. Employment opportunities in teaching profession at different levels are increasing fast. This can be seen from the fact that while in the year 1951-52, the number of teachers at primary stage was 1,166, in 1964-65 their number increased to 4,743. The number of lady-teachers at this stage increased from 7 in 1951-52 to 544 in 1964-65. Similarly, at the middle school stage for the year 1950-51, the number of teachers was 259 which increased to 1,524 in 1964-65. In 1950-51, there was no lady teacher at this stage of education, but in 1964-65, there were 167 of them in Durg District. At the higher secondary stage, there were 38 teachers including 4 lady teachers in 1950-51. In 1964-65, their number increased to 838 including 133 lady teachers. At collegiate stage the number of teachers was 19 in 1960-61. This increased to 29 in the year 1964-65. Government has started training institutions for teachers to provide qualified teaching personnel. The number of teachers in three training institutions was 31 in 1961-62.

As a measure of economic betterment of the persons in this profession Government have made the revised pay scales for their employees also applicable to the institutions run by Local Bodies. All the teachers of primary and middle schools of Local Bodies were taken under Government control on 1st October, 1963. The main aim of this scheme was to establish direct concern with the teachers so that the payment of their salaries is ensured in time and their work can be evaluated properly. However, in the current day conditions of rising cost of living, the persons in this class are subject to the hardships of other fixed-income-earners in the society.

This profession is providing more opportunities for educated persons, as more schools are being opened due to incerased keenness among all classes of the society to receive education. There is a provision of free education at the primary stage and several concessions to the students from the lower stage of society are offered. In order to equip these institu, ions, Government are trying to provide facilities for training teachers at all levels tand also making the occupation economically attractive. In villages, the teachers are respected by the villagers, as they play key-role in alround development of the villages. With the introduction of the Panchayatiraj the teachers will no doubt get more importance in the village life.

'Amongst the important constituents of learned profession, the artists, writers and related workers claimed 430 persons in the District in 1961. Musicians and other related workers, together with actors, etc., formed the majority among them, who numbered 134 and 184, respectively. Others include author 1; editors, journalists 2; translators, interpreters and language specialists 2, painters, deco-

rators and commercial artists 40; sculptors and modellers 27; dancers, etc., 32 and others not included in the above categories 8.

Medical Profession

Next to the teaching profession from the point of national importance is the medical profession. Even after two decades of Independence, there is dearth of trained phsysicians to serve the millions in the rural areas of the Country. It is a general tendency among the medical practitioners to settle in urban areas for their practice. According to 1951 Census, there were 101 registered medical practitioners, 293 *Vaidyas, Hakims*, etc., 2 Dentists, 52 Midwives, 20 Vaccinators, 60 Compounders and 199 Nurses. Thus for a population of 14,81,756 persons, there were only 727 persons of all categories in the medical profession. This gave a proportion of about 2,038 persons per medical man. As per Standard Industrial Classification in the year 1961, there were 1,694 persons in the medical and public health services in the District. This figure is not strictly comparable with the 1951 figure, but because of opening of Primary Health Centres and dispensaries, etc., during different Plan periods, the number of persons in this profession has certainly increased. Even with the increase of population to 18,85,236 in 1961, the proportion of population per medical personnel has improved, which is roughly 1,113 persons per medical man.

Economic condition of the persons in this occupation is comparatively satisfactory, because besides the remuneration pertaining to the particular job, private practice also provides addition to income. New entrants sometimes find it difficult to establish their practice in competition with the veterans in the profession. The Government's policy of providing free medical treatment to the people at Government dispensaries, and the introduction of the enactments like Employee's State Insurance Scheme, etc., are stated to be the obstacles in the way of fresh entrants to establish their practice. Inspite of this, there is a great scope in this occupation if the entrants start to live and serve the population in rural areas.

Veterinary Services

Though previously veterinary services were not popular but now due to the establishment of the office of the District Live-stock Officer, veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the District, this occupation is gaining importance. In 1951 Census, no veterinary personnel in the District was recorded, but in 1961, the veterinary services rendered by organizations and individuals of all types provided occupation to 110 persons. So far, there are no private practitioners in this field. Due to the policy of all round development of villages, these veterinary doctors have varied important duties, viz., to control epidemics amongst animals, perform post-mortem, examine police cases, supervise slaughter-houses, inspect cattle-farms, cattle-ponds, etc., arrange cattle-shows and to educate the masses for cattle welfare. Thus the importance of veterinary services is growing since

the establishment of Blocks in the District. People are frequently consulting these doctors for improvement of their livestock.

The economic condition of the veterinary doctors is satisfactory but not to the extent of other medical practitioners. There is dearth of veterinary doctors in the Country, and this District is not an exception to this.

Legal Profession

According to 1951 Census, the number of lawyers of all kinds including *qazis*, law agents and *mukhtiars* in the District was 59. The number of clerks of lawyers was 72, and managers, clerks and servants of legal organizations numbered 23. As against this, according to 1961 Census, 252 persons were engaged in legal services In the District , seven Bar Associations are functioning at Durg, Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Dongargarh, Bemetara, Kawardha and Sanjari-Balod to which legal practioners are associated. Moreover, the Police Prosecutor and six Assistant Police Prosecutors conduct police cases in the courts.

The new entrants in the legal profession, find it difficult to attract clientele. It is also found that there are great diversities of income in this profession, as the income depends on the professional skill and success in the cases conducted. Besides, quite a long period of apprenticeship has to be gone through before a lawyer's services find reward. Due to this, occupation of lawyers is now not a great attraction.

Occupations of teachers, medical and veterinary doctors, lawyers, etc., might be broadly termed as learned professions. Besides these, there are other occupations like retail and wholesale trade, moneylending, etc., which are connected with the commercial activity.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

Wholesale and Retail Trade.—The 1951 Census enumerated 4,464 persons in retail trade in grain and pulses, sweetmeat sugar and spices, dairy products, etc. The Standard Industrial Classification comparable to this category of retail trade is trading in cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits, sugar, spices, oil, fish, dairy products, etc. Thus, 1961 Census enumerated 7,833 persons in this activity. These two categories are mostly comparable in their contents and, therefore, it can be said that there was an increase in the number of retail traders in this group.

Retail traders in textiles and leathergoods numbered 1,108 as per 1951 Census. The comparable category from the Standard Industrial Classification is retail trading in fibres, yarns, *dhoti*, sari ready-made garments of cotton, etc., excluding leather-goods. In the year 1961, their number was 1,560. Retail trading in foot-wear, headgear, umbrella, shoes, etc., engaged 77 persons in the District. Together, this gives a total of 1,637 persons in 1961, as against 1,188 in 1951, But

1961 groups were more comprehensive than in 1951, and the increase is likely to be due to this phenomenon.

There were 982 persons engaged in retailing *pan*, *bidis* and cigarettes according to 1951 Census. As against this, retail trading in tobacco, *bidi*, cigarettes and other tobacco products engaged 1,352 persons in 1961.

Wholesale trade in grains and pulses, sweetmeat, sugar and spices, dairy products, etc., engaged 61 persons, as per 1951 Census. As against this, wholesale trading in cereals and pulses itself engaged 3,216 persons. In addition, trading in vegetables, fruits, sugar, spices, oil, fish, dairy products, etc. engaged 75 persons in 1961. Together, for comparability with 1951 classification, it makes a total of 3,291 in 1961, as against only 61 persons of 1951 Census. However, it is hazardous to conclude from these figures that the number of wholesalers in 1961 increased substantially, i.e., about five hundred times over that of 1951, because the categories are not exactly comparable. Other categories of wholesalers enumerated in the two Censuses too, are not even remotely comparable. It is not unlikely that with the increase in population, facilities of easy transport, planned development activities, establishment of new Bhilai-township, etc., have resulted in increase in wholesale and retail trading activities engaging large number of persons in the District.

This can be corroborated from the fact that 1,996 shops of kirana (grocery), 1,247 shops of grain, 741 shops of cloth, 242 hotels and 198 shops of sweatmeat are located in the District in 1966 The Tahsil-wise break-up of different types of shops registered under Madhya Pradesh General Sales Tax Act, is given in the following Table:—

Category of Shops	Rajnandgaon	Sanjari Balod	Kawardha	Khairagarh	Durg
Cycle-repairing	42	10	20	20	—
Kirana	218	115	70	142	340
Pan-bidi	182	20	30	38	—
Sweetmeat	50	15	10	15	118 (Sweetmeat and Hotels)
Hotels	132	25	30	35	
Grain shops	—	—	—	—	174
Cloth	—	—	—	—	221

N. B. Figures of Bemetara tahsil are not available.

Hotels and Restaurants

The management of hotels, restaurants and lodging and boarding houses is becoming a specialized occupation, especially in big industrialized urban centres. Even in rural-areas, small shops providing light refereshment, tea, etc., are coming

up near motor-stands and in the market places. However, hotels are mainly a feature of urban life. Also the hotel and restaurant business is found to be a profitable investment. The number of these is, therefore, increasing, naturally resulting in increased employment opportunities in this occupation in the District. In the year 1951, there were 411 persons engaged in hotels, restaurants and eating-houses, while in 1961 Census count, 1,774 persons were enumerated under services rendered by hotels, boarding-houses, eating-houses, etc., in the District. For the District as a whole, the increase in the number is very impressive which can be attributed to the establishment of the Steel-Plant and a township at Bhilai, where thousands of persons, migrating from different parts of the country, depend on hotel-food and lodging facilities. The hours of work, leave and other service conditions of the employees in hotels, restaurants, etc., are governed under the provisions of the Madhya Pradesh Shops and Establishments Act, 1958. The provisions of Madhya Pradesh Minimum Wages Fixation Act, 1962, are being extended to include hotels, restaurants, etc., for purposes of fixation of minimum wages.

In the year 1965, there were 118 hotels and sweetmeat shops in Durg Tahsil. The number of hotels in Rajnandgaon Tahsil was 132, in Sanjari Balod 25, in Kawardha 30, and in Khairagarh 35, during the same year.

Money-lending

Inspite of development of banking institutions, co-operative societies, etc., individual money-lenders still continue to be a source of credit to a large section of rural population. This occupation is, as a matter of fact, deeply-rooted in the economic conditions of the Country. A villager finds it convenient to go for loans, whenever required to the village money-lender as he is readily available, rather than to engage himself in a long-drawn process of applying for loan through co-operative credit society or bank. This being so. the occupation of money-lenders still continues, inspite of many restrictions imposed by the Government on his business method with a view to making institutional credit popular amongst the rural masses. According to 1951 Census 235 persons were engaged in money-lending, banking and other financial business, while the 1961 Census enumerated 27 persons as engaged in money-lending (indigenous) and 124 persons in banking and similar type of financial operations.

Repairing of Bicycles

With bicycle becoming a mode of cheap conveyance for the masses in the rural and urban areas, a number of persons are now engaged in the activity of repairing bicycles. This activity cannot be said to have assumed such dimensions as to form a separate category of occupation, yet a number of persons are earning their livelihood in this activity. In Rajnandgaon Tahsil there were 42 cycle repairing shops, in Balod Tahsil 10 such shops, and in Kawardha and Khairagarh tahsils 20 such shops each were registered in the year 1965. Usually these establishments are worked by the owners themselves, and mostly in urban areas or on the

road-side near office establishments, factories, cinema-houses, hotels, etc. The work is generally carried on at peak-hours of traffic. The 1951 Census classification besides cycle-repairing, included manufacture, assembly and repair of railway equipments, motor vehicles, etc., in which 258 persons were engaged. However, in 1961, the repairing of bicycles and tricycles formed a separate occupational class, and 661 persons were enumerated for the whole of the District in this occupation.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

Domestic and personal services include the occupations like those of tailors, *dhobis* (washermen) *nais* (barbers), cooks, personal drivers, etc. In olden times such a retinue of domestic servants used to form part of the larger families of the land-owning gentry and other well-to-do classes in the society. With the changes in the socio-economic conditions and higher cost of living, circumstances have changed. Greater opportunities of employment becoming available elsewhere, persons take up domestic service as a source of livelihood in the last resort. Here again instead of full-time jobs, part-time work is preferred. Moreover, general economic conditions do not permit employment of domestic personnel on a full-time basis except by those belonging to the upper strata of society. *Nais* and *dhobis* prefer to set up their saloons and laundries where the customers are served. In rural areas also the old occupational traditions are changing though the change is prominently marked in urban areas. Everywhere now there are hair-cutting and laundry establishments, where customers are not lacking. Besides, these occupations are no longer restricted to particular castes in the society. A person in laundry business need not necessarily be a washerman by caste or the one working in hair-cutting establishment a barber. Such establishments are found to be run also by other caste people in the society. In the occupation of tailoring, even high-caste people are also found.

Laundry and Hair-cutting

In the year 1951 there were 644 persons engaged in laundries and laundry services. In the year 1961, this number had increased to 1,454 persons. The number of barbers. hair-dressers, etc., in 1951 was 2,688, while in 1961, the number of persons in similar categories was 3,455.

Most of the laundries and hair-cutting saloons are carried on by owners themselves without any assistance. In a few cases the members of family like brothers, etc., are taken as helpers.

According to 1951 Census, cooks, gardeners and other domestic servants numbered 2,487 in the District. As enumerated in 1961, the number of domestic servants, cooks, etc., was 5,951. More than double the increase in the number during the last decade might reasonably be attributed to the growth of Bhilai township, which created a spurt in the demand for this occupational-group during this decade.

Tailoring

In tailoring occupation there were 966 persons in the District, classified as tailors, milliners, dress-makers and darners in 1951 Census. In the year 1961, the persons engaged in the making of textile garments including rain-coats and headgears numbered 3,168. Increase of population and greater sophistication in sartorial habits of the people provide opportunities for taking up this occupation. The econimic condition of persons in this occupation is generally satisfactory.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Livelihood Pattern

Of all the different decennial census periods the period 1951-61 happens to be one of the greatest population increase in the District. The increase during this census period was of the order of 27.23 per cent. The total "workers"[1] in the District in the year 1951 were 8,78,685. As against this their number in 1961 was 11,03,430.

The pattern of livelihood can be considered on the basis of occupational classification of population for different census years. But because of changes in the mode of classification from one census to another, no valid comparison can be established, so as to depict changes in the pattern of livelihood. However, 1951 and 1961 census figures for different occupations are being used to present the pattern of livelihood and the changes therein as they emerge from them. The percentage of "workers" to total population in 1951 was 59.40 while in 1961 it happened to be 58.53. It is worth noting that the number of "workers" for all occupational divisions in 1951 taken together was less than the "workers" in the single occupational division of agriculture for 1961. The percentage of "workers" in agriculture to the total "workers" in all occupational divisions was 86.48 in 1954 while in 1961, it was 80.19 per cent. This fall in the percentage of "workers" in agriculture in spite of the wide scope of the definition of the term as adopted in 1961 Census points to the changing economic conditions in the District as a result of the setting up of Bhilai Steel Plant as well as its ancillary and subsidiary industries in the neighbourhood. The fact, however, remains that agriculture still happens to be the major source of livelihood for the people in the District.

Production other than cultivation was a source of livelihood for 5.93 per cent of the total "workers" in 1951. In 1961, the "workers" in livelihood classes such as mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities, household industry, and manufacturing other than household industry, formed 10.95 per cent of the total "workers". All these occupations in 1961 are roughly equivalent to the class, 'Production Other than cultivation' of 1951 Census. Percentage increase in 1961 happens

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1 The figure for "workers" in 1951 is worked out on the basis of A Note on Working Force Estimates 1901-61, Appendix I, Census of India, Paper No. 1 of 1962.

to be nearly double that of the percentage in 1951. The reason for this increase can again be traced to the establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant, mining of iron-ore and lime-stone for this plant and the establishment of subsidiary industries like chemical fertilizers, etc.

Commercial activities in 1951 provided livelihood to 1.88 per cent of the total "workers". In the year 1961 trade and commerce engaged 1.82 per cent of the "workers". Of all the different occupational classes for these two censuses trade and commerce, happens to be highly comparable. The industrial activities in the District are also increasing and yet percentage of "workers" in 1961 appears to have fallen, though slightly. It is difficult to explain this phenomenon unless it is presumed that petty trading or what may be called marginal trading activities which were being carried on in the earlier years for want of any other opportunities of earning livelihood were being given up subsequently with the opening up of better opportunities for employment. An absolute increase in the number of "workers" in this occupation was from 16,533 in 1951 to 20,135 in 1961.

In transport, the percentage of "workers" in 1951 was a meagre 0.86 of the total "workers" but in 1961 this percentage was 1.10. This increase might be explained as a consequence of developmental activities in industries, mines construction, etc. As a matter of fact, construction activities in the District provided livelihood to 1.54 per cent of the total "workers".

The "workers" in other services in 1951 formed 5.34 per cent of the total "workers". In 1961 the percentage was 4.39. This fall in the percentage is likely to be due to the change in the contents of this occupational class, which was wider in 1951 as compared to 1961.

On the basis of the date given above the pattern of livelihood in the District cannot be said to have changed materially. More than 80 per cent of the total "workers" still earn their livelihood from agriculture. With the increase in population the number of "workers" in agriculture has increased so much so that the number in agricultural occupation in 1961 became more than the total number of "workers" in all the occupational class of 1951 Census. The Bhilai Steel and other development projects in the District have opened up fresh opportunities of employment in mining and manufacturing industries to some extent but other occupations like trade and commerce and transport have very little to offer. However, the process of change in the economy of the District has set in and the pattern of livelihood is likely to be changed with the sustained growth of existing industries and with the setting up of ancillary and subsidiary industries.

The economic status classificatian of population for 1951 and 1961 censuses differs materially. But after finding out the population of "workers" as per instructions in paper I of 1962 and taking the remaining population for 1951, as that of "non-workers", the proportion of dependents in the District

per "worker" in the year 1951 came to 0.68. In the year 1961 this proportion increased to 0.70. The increase in the proportion of dependents to a "worker" in the year 1961 is in consonance with the fact that the percentage of "workers" to total population in that year was lower than that in the year 1951. The increase in the proportion of dependents though slight might be traced to the increasing employment of "workers" in manufacturing industries and mining where there is little scope of employment for females and children especially the latter, as compared to agriculture. As agricultural activities predominate in rural while industries, trade commerce and transport in the urban areas, the ratio of "workers" to "non-workers" in rural areas in the year 1961 was 1:0.67; but in urban areas the ratio happened to be 1:1.03. These ratio lend support to the fact that because of increase in industrial, mining and other activities in the District in which there is little scope for employment of women and children as compared to agriculture, proportion of "non-workers" to a "worker" had increased in 1961, as compared to 1951. Urban population in the District, recorded a substantial increase of 200.53 per cent over that in the year 1951. This abnormal increase was mainly due to the establishment of Bhilai Steel Project and consequent establishment of Bhilai Industrial Township as well as the mining township of Rajhara-Jharandalli. An important feature of the employment in agriculture in the District and for that matter whole of the Chhattisgarh region is that the number of female "workers" happens to be higher than that of the male "workers". In the year 1961 while the number of male "workers" as cultivators was 330,099 the female cultivators numbered 349,464. As agricultural labourers also the females out-numbered males, the figures being 105,100 and 100,171, respectively. In other occupations like mining and quarrying household and manufacturing other than household industries and the rest, male "workers" were more than females.

There are no data regarding the shift of population from one industry to another in the District. As a matter of fact prior to the establishment of the Bhilai Steel Plant, there were no industries in the District worth the name except one textile mill at Rajnandgaon. It is not also possible to say whether there is a shift of population away from agriculture to the industries. The dislocation of agricultural population because of the acquisition of villages and land for setting up Bhilai Steel Plant, might have caused the movement of landless labourers to the mining and the Plant areas but major portion of thelabour inmines and in steel plant is immigrant labour. More than 50 per cent of the labour has been from the South,mainly composing Telegu and Malayalim speaking persons. About 30 per cent has been Oriya speaking and the rest a mixture of local as well as Hindi and Marathi speaking labour shifted with the principal contractors. This shows that there is very little shifting of the population away from agriculture in the District.

The pattern of livelihood in the District, therefore, remains mainly agricultural, though some opportunities for earning livelihood in industries and ter-

tiary sectors have been created because of the establishment of the nation's major steel project. According to the provisional figures available for the latest 1971 Census, percentage of "Workers" to the total population was 46.6. Percentage of "Workers" in agriculture to the total "Workers" was 81.1 per cent (With cultivators 56.6 and agricultural labourers 24.5 per cent). All "Other Workers" constituted 18.9 per cent of the total workers.

PRICES

The District as a separate administrative unit dates only from the 1st January, 1906 and hence data regarding prices are given from that year onwards.

In the year 1906, the retail prices of rice were 12 seers, wheat 15.12 seers, gram 12.67 and linseed 9.56 seers a rupee. Prices of all these commodities had risen in the year 1907 and in the following year there was a further increase in prices, except for linseed which recorded a slight drop in the price from 7.17 seers in 1907 to 7.36 seers a rupee in the year 1908. Agricultural year 1907-08 in the District happened to be one of a general fall in the out-turn of rice, wheat and linseed as compared to the previous year. The fall in production of rice happend to be the highest. While rise in the prices of rice and wheat might possibly be attributed to a substantial drop in their production in 1907-08 season the fall in the price of linseed in 1908 in spite of the fall in its production and rise in the price of gram in the same year against rise in production cannot be explained. This is so because price movements of commodities cannnot be wholly related to the condition of their production in a particular locality. Moreover, the average retail price data that are used here are for the calendar year while production data relate to the agricultural year. Besides these circumstances the prices are retail prices, which are the end product of a number of factors like transport costs, profits of whole-sale and retail dealers, short-term supply and demand conditions of particular commodities, etc. Hence explanation of the trends of prices of the commodities can in no way be adequately related to the condition of their production in the District in a particular year. As such data regarding production and prices of the commodities as being used here are not in the sense of giving cause and effect analysis but as a general statement of facts only. Prices of rice, wheat and gram in the year 1909 have fallen while that of linseed registered an increase over that in the year 1908. This rise in the price of linseed was aggravated in the following two years, i. e., 1910 and 1911, in the latter of which it happened to be 5.17 seers a rupee. In contrast with linseed, prices of rice, wheat as well as gram were steadily falling in continuation of the trend set in from the year 1909 upto 1911. In the year 1911, the price of rice was 12.77 seers, wheat 16.04 seers and gram 18.91 seers a rupee. All these prices were the lowest so far obtained from the year 1906. It may be mentioned here that the agricultural year 1911-12 happened to be most propitious in respect of the production of rice, wheat and gram. Taking the normal crop condition as 100, the out-turn of rice crop both broadcast and transplanted was 120 each; wheat was 106 and gram 105. Linseed, however, had fallen to

79, and hence perhaps the greatest increase in the price of this commodity in that year. In the year 1912 the upward trend in the prices of rice, wheat and gram was again set in. Linseed again deviated from this combined trend of rising prices of the three commodities. There was a fall in the prices of linseed in 1912 and a further fall in 1913, the prices being 8.15 seers per rupee. The price of rice in 1913 was 9.52 seers, wheat 12.20 seers and gram 11.51 seers a rupee.

The year 1913 was the year preceding the out-break of the First World War. In the first year of the War, i. e., 1914, rising trend in the prices of rice, wheat and gram, observed from 1912, continued. Rice which was sold at 9.52 seers in 1913 was 9.22 seers a rupee in 1914. Prices of wheat rose from 12.20 seers to 10.05 seers and that of gram from 11.51 seers to 10.26 seers a rupee from the year 1913 to 1914. In the year 1915 the price of rice had fallen slightly over that of the previous year, but there was a sharp rise in the price of wheat from 10.05 seers in 1914 to 9.8 seers a rupee in 1915 as against 10.26 seers a rupee in 1914. There was a general fall in the prices of all these three commodities in the year 1916. The linseed was sold at a higher price in this year as compared to 1913. There was a further fall in the prices of rice, wheat and gram as well as linseed in the year 1917. The tendency of falling prices, even during War years, especially in the year 1915, 1916 and 1917 was perhaps due to high out-turn of these crops during the agricultural years 1914-15 and 1915-16, especially the latter. This also shows that War time demand for foodgrains was not so high as to exercise an upward pull in their prices. The trend in prices took an upward turn in the year 1918 in respect of all the four commodities that are considered here. In respect of rice, prices soared further in the following two years, viz., 1919 and 1920, in the latter of which the rate was 4.75 seers a rupee. Price of wheat rose in 1919 to 5.13 seers a rupee from 8.10 seers a rupee in 1918, but in 1920, there was slight drop the rate being 5.80 seers a rupee. Trend in the prices of gram was similar to that in the prices of rice and in 1920 the price was 5.28 seers a rupee, as against 5.31 seers a rupee in 1919. Prices of linseed also rose in the years 1919 and 1920 being 4.1 seers a rupee in the former and 8.37 seers a rupee in the latter. What had happened to set in motion the spiral of rising prices of foodgrains from 1918 was perhaps this, that "The failure of late monsoon in September 1918 over large areas of the provinces, coupled with the extensive crop failure in other parts of India created a situation which threatened to be extremely serious.......... With prices at a level unheard of in the famines of twenty years ago, the situation was complicated by the large number of children left orphan by influenza and by the enfeebling effects of the epidemic on the surviving adult population.[1]"

From the year 1921 to 1929 the lowest price of rice was 8.07 seers a rupee in the year 1924. Lowest price of wheat was also obtained in the same year being 9.24 seers a rupee. During the same period, lowest price of gram was in

1 C. P. and Berar Administration Report, 1918-19, p. vi.

the year 1923, i. e., 14.11 seers a rupee. The price of linseed was lowest in the year 1927 being 6.65 seers a rupee. It becomes thus obvious that prices of all the foodgrains in the District even during the actual War period were generally lower than those prevailing in this post-War period.

The year 1930 was marked by the very substantial fall in prices of all the commodities dealt in here. The extent of the drop in prices can be seen from the fact that rice which was priced at 7.63 seers a rupee in 1929 was priced down to 19.47 seers a rupee in the year 1930. Wheat was sold at 8.55 seers a rupee in 1929, its price having fallen to 20.25 seers a rupee in 1930. The prices of gram and linseed also kept the downward sliding pace. Price of gram was 8.89 seers a rupee in 1929 and slumped to 13.20 seers a rupee in 1930; the prices of linseed were 5.9 seers and 10.60 seers a rupee in these years, respectively. The agricultural year 1929-30 was the best in respect of out-turn of all crops. In anna notation the out-turn of rice both broadcast and transplanted was 15 annas in a rupee; wheat and gram out-turn was 14 annas in each case while linseed out-turn was 12 annas in a rupee. Thus. though the slump in prices may be partly attributed to the bounty of nature it was noticed as feature of the world-wide depression. The wages of agricultural and other classes of labourers fell and with a fall in purchasing power of the people, prices slumped. From 1931 to 1939 the prices of all the four commodities were generally low. During this period the price of rice did not rise above 13.70 seers a rupee of the year 1931. Lowest price for rice was obtained in the year 1933 being 19.85 seers a rupee. The highest price of wheat was in 1936, which was 10.85 seers a rupee in that year; lowest price, as in case of rice was in the year 1933, viz., 18.35 seers a rupee. Lowest price of gram, 20.30 seers a rupee was in 1937 and the highest 9.85 seers a rupee in 1939. Prices of linseed, however, showed erratic tendency, as compared to other three commodities, from 1934 onwards. But lowest price for linseed as in case of rice and wheat was in 1933 being 12.85 seers a rupee and highest being in 1939, i. e., 7.35 seers a rupee.

The year 1932, saw the out-break of the Second World War the effects of which on the commodity prices were widespread. The retail price series of the commodity prices data being not available the whole-sale harvest prices of the commodities taken above are being used. Besides this the price series are for the agricultural year, unlike the retail price series, which were for calendar year. Prices for the four commodities from 1939-40 to 1945-46 were as under.—

(In Rs. per maund)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed
1939-40	2-15-0	3-0-0	3-4-0	5-0-0
1940-41	4-2-0	3-4-0	2-13-0	4-1-0
1941-42	5-12-0	5-14-0	3-13-0	5-4-0
1942-43	8-4-0	8-13-0	10-4-0	10-10-0
1943-44	8.14-0	9-3-0	9-12-0	5-6-0
1944-45	8-15-0	9-6-0	7-12-0	8-15-0
1945-46	9-0-0	9-5-0	8-0-0	16-6-0

It may be observed from the Table that rice and wheat prices were contineously rising from year to year. Trend of prices was erratic both in case of gram and linseed which was more pronounced in case of linseed. Roughly rise in the prices of rice and wheat at the end of the War was four, and three times as much, respectively, as compared to the prices prevailing in the year of the out-break of the War. Absolute increase was the highest in case of linseed and lowest in case of gram in the year 1945-46. It may be remembered that prices of generally all foodgrains during War-time were managed or controlled prices. There was a general rise in prices of foodgrains at the commencement of the War. Local shortages developed as a result of the transport difficulties and when on the entry of Japan into the conflict, Burma was occupied, a major source of the import of rice was cut off and scarcity conditions began to be felt. Shortages were aggravated with a very natural tendency towards hoarding which led to a critical situation in 1942-43. To exercise effective control over prices, Government took action early in 1943 to secure as large a measure of control as possible over supplies of food grains and over their distribution. Official procurement of rice, jowar and wheat was started. Later, for the equitable and efficient distribution of foodgrains rationing and quasirationing schemes were introduced. Thus the whole sale prices as given above do not represent the actual price situation determined by the operation of free market conditions. Comparable feature of the price trends that is observed in case of the First and the Second World War was that the prices of foodgrains increased much more in the years of the cessation of hostilities rather than during the years when the wars were being waged.

In the year 1946-47 there was a slight fall in the price of rice in the District over the previous year, but there was a rise in the prices of wheat and linseed. In this year which found the introduction of popular administration in the State, which was inclined to take a sympathetic view regarding compulsory levy and monopoly procurement schemes as well as making larger supplies of foodgrains to poorer classes of consumers. The question of controls was re-examined by the Government of India towards the end of 1947, and had decided on a policy of gradual decontrol in pursuance of which the State Government removed all bans on the inter-district movement of foodgrains and abandoned the rigid system of monopoly procurement. The price of rice which was Rs. 8-4-0 per maund in 1946-47 increased to Rs. 11 per maund in 1947-48; the price of linseed was Rs. 17-10-0 per maund in 1947-48 as against Rs. 17-11-0 in the previous year, a slight fall by an anna over a maund. Price for gram in 1947-48 was Rs. 13-4-0 per maund. There was thus a general increase in the prices of foodgrains. The Government of India reviewed the food position for the country as a whole and came to the conclusion that decontrol had been a failure. It was decided to impose the controls in all the states. For Madhya Pradesh, however, it was agreed that the then existing system of "partial compulsory procurement" should be allowed to continue. The 1948-49 season being unfavourable it necessitated an increase in the levy of rice, from

stockists from 40 to 60 per cent of grain purchased. This levy was raised further to 75 per cent in August, 1949. In the year 1948-49 the price of rice increased further to Rs. 11-6-0 per maund, and was Rs. 16-8-0 per maund in 1950-51. Price of wheat which was Rs. 17-11-0 in 1948-49 stood at Rs. 25-4-0 per maund in 1950-51. There was a fall in the price of gram in 1950-51 to Rs. 11-11-0 per maund from Rs. 15-3-0 in 1948-49. Linseed was sold at Rs. 31-13-0 per maund in 1950-51, the price of which was only Rs. 17-10-0 per maund in 1948-49. Thus on the eve of the launching of the First Five Year Plan except for gram, prices of the rest of the commodities stood high.

During the First Five Year Plan the farm harvest prices of the four commodities in the District were as under.

(In Rs. per maund)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed
1951-52	15-05	13.75	11.69	18.06
1952-53	15.94	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1953-54	15.00	17.12	16.56	18.79
1954-55	13.31	9.00	7.31	11.87
1955 56	12.87	16.31	14.44	16.00

From the Table given above it appears that in the first year of the Plan, there was a general fall in the prices of foodgrains as well as linseed. The fall in the prices of wheat and linseed was, however, substantial as compared to other commodities. The production of these commodities during the same period was as under.—

(In '000 tons)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed
1951-52	353.6	18.9	18.1	12.5
1952-53	299.8	20.4	20.0	13.6
1953-54	361.4	21.8	24 7	17.7
1954-55	293.9	25.3	25.9	17.9
1955-56	405.2	24.9	27.9	21.8

Taking the figures for production and prices in case of rice it may be found that fall in the prices along with rise in production and rise in prices along with fall in production is consistent except in the year 1954-55 when even with a fall in production prices fell as compared to the previous year. This trend is vitiated in case of wheat, gram and linseed. It is, therefore, a pointer to the fact that production of a particular commodity though it exercises some influence in its price and may be taken as a major factor (i. e., supply factor) in determin-

ing the price, yet in the absence of free market conditions which is generally the case in a planned economy like ours and against the context of global conditions, prices are affected by numerous factors exercising their influence differently in different regions or administrative units like the District as the case may be. The year 1954-55 was, however, a year which saw a general decline in the prices of all the four commodities selected and it is observed that except in case of rice, in case of all other commodities there was a rise in production in this year, over the previous year. In the year 1955-56, there was a considerable increase in production of rice. Production of gram and linseed had also increased, but there was a fall in production of wheat, which had increased its price, but prices of gram and linseed also registered a rise. Production of rice being nearly double than of the previous year, its price was low. On the eve of the Second Five Year Plan, therefore, the prices situation of foodgrains was not easy., though production was high. Monetary and fiscal policies of the Government adopted to finance developmental activities, and rising population might be said to be responsible for the general increase in prices of the essential commodities. During the Second Five-Year Plan period the prices were as under.

(In Rs. per maund)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed
1956-57	N.A.	16.12	N.A.	N.A.
1957-58	N.A.	18.39	11.22	20.39
1958-59	N.A.	N.A.	25.60	19.19
1959-60	16.00	11.80	13.70	18.84
1960-61	N.A.	15.03	14.00	21.75

It is difficult to establish any comparison between the prices of rice in the District between the First and Second Plan periods, as for the four out of five years of the Second Plan, figures are not available. Price of wheat had fallen slightly in 1956-57 as compared to that of the previous year. In the year 1958-59 highest price for gram was recorded during the decade 1951-52 to 1960-61 and the highest price for linseed was in the year 1957-58 during the two Plan periods. Production of these commodities from the year 1956-57 to 1960-61 was:—

(In '000 tons)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed
1956-57	487.5	29.2	23.4	21.4
1957-58	361.9	10.4	21.0	9.5
1958-59	447.2	20.4	7.3	19.9
1959-60	477.8	28.4	26.6	26.7
1960-61	471.7	25.3	20.2	22.9

Comparing the figures regarding production during the two Plan periods, it may be found that average production of rice during the Second Plan period was 437.22 thousand tons as against 343.78 thousand tons during the First Plan. This was a substantial increase in the staple foodgrain production of the District. Slight increase was also marked in wheat production. Figures for two Plan periods were 22.26 and 22.74 thousand tons on an average, respectively. Production of linseed was also higher during the Second Plan as compared to that of the First. It was only the production of gram which declined to an average of 19.7 thousand tons during the Second, as against 23.32 thousand tons of the First Plan. In spite of this general improvement in production, price situation was not easy, as may be found from the Table given above.

In the year 1961-62 wheat, gram linseed prices increased over that of the previous year. Wheat was Rs.17.91, gram Rs. 18.64 and linseed Rs. 25.73 per maund. Prices for rice were not available for this year. In the year 1962-63 the price for coarse[1] variety of rice in the District was Rs. 48 and fine rice was Rs. 61.50 per quintal (1 quintal=2.679 maunds) wheat was Rs. 42.35, gram Rs. 36 and linseed Rs. 51.13 per quintal. There was a fail in the price of rice, which was Rs. 60.21 per quintal for fine variety in the year 1963-64. Price of wheat as well as linseed increased in this year to Rs. 59.33 and Rs. 63.75 per quintal respectively. There was a further rise in the prices of these commodities in the year 1964-65, the prices being Rs. 66.88 for wheat and Rs. 73 of linseed per quintal.

From the figures as available the prices of the principal foodgrains and oil-seed in the District during the first four years of the Third Plan appeared to be on the increase as compared to the two earlier plan periods.

These and latest available figures of prices and production of these crops are being given below. The later figures also, barring an occasional exception, or two, confirm to the same trend of rising prices.

Prices

Year	Rice (Medium)	Wheat	Gram	Linseed	
					(In Rs. per maund)
1961-62	N.A.	17.91	18.64	25.78	
					(In Rs. per quintal)
1962-63	N.A.	42.35	37.00	51.13	
1963-64	N.A.	59.33	N.A.	63.75	
1964-65	58 59	66.88	N.A.	73.00	
1965-66	N.A.	64.54	56.00	129.69	
1966-67	117 91	77.75	83.38	174.31	
1967-68	110.21	N.A.	92.43	98.57	
1968-69	103 71	N.A.	78.87	115.56	
1969-70	99.57	N.A	102.43	156.95	

1 Prices for rice-given for the First Plan period in the Table are for medium variety.
2 This was the only variety for which price for 1963-64 was reported.
3 The prices of gram for 1963-64 and 1964-65 were not available. The price for a comparable variety of rice, i.e., Fine was also not reported for the year 1964-65.

Production

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed	
					(In '000 Tons)
1961-62	458.3	32.1	21.3	33.5	
1962-63	316.1	30.0	24.9	25.0	
1963-64	416.2	25.1	14.0	14.3	
1964-65	444.2	34.0	24.1	22.1	
					(In '000 M. Tons)
1965-66	187.5	20.0	20.6	4.0	
1966-67	184.9	20.2	27.1	6.8	
1967-68	409.4	26.1	14.7	25.8	

WAGES

The settlement Report of the Durg Tahsil, 1903 mentions the wages of ordinary labour, which had then fallen as a result of bad years, as 2 to 3 lbs., of husked rice per day for male labourer. For female labourer wages were 1½ to 2 lbs. of husked rice. The wages of village blacksmith and herdsman were also paid in kind, i.e., unhusked rice per plough of land. Wages of village blacksmith and *kotwar* were 10 *kathas* or 65 lbs. of unhusked rice per plough of land. The Baiga serving several villages was paid 12 to 32 lbs., of unhusked rice, an indoor servant Rs. 3 to 4 a month and a groom Rs. 5 to 6 a month. The *dhobi* was, however, paid in cash according to his services. At about the year 1910, the cash wages in the interior of the District, were as low as 6 to 8 pice for a man and 5 to 6 pice for a woman for weeding the crops. In Durg town wages of a man were annas 3 a day and of a woman annas 2. Monthly wages of able-bodied agricultural labourer were Rs. 5 from amongst the skilled workers monthly wages in case of a mason and blacksmith were Rs. 15 while those of a carpenter Rs. 20 per month.

In the year 1913, common labourer's wage was Rs. 5-8-0 and that of a mason and blacksmith Rs. 22-8-0 per month, but carpenter's wage was Rs. 18-12-0 per month, which unlike the wage-rate in the year 1910, was lower than that of a mason and blacksmith. The price of rice, a staple foodgrain of the District in this year was substantially high as compared to the year 1910. Price of wheat also was comparatively higher. The high wage-rates in this year, therefore, might be attributed to the high prices of foodgrains. In the year 1914, there was a further rise in wage-rate of a common labourer to Rs. 7-8-0 per month. Carpenter's wage increased by about Rs. 8 per month in one year i.e., from 18-2-0 in 1913 to Rs. 26-4-0 in 1914. An increase by about the same amount was observed in the wage-rate of a blacksmith which was Rs. 30 per month in 1914. The wage-rate was the highest for blacksmith as compared to that of the mason and carpenter. In the year 1918, at the end of the First World War, wage-rate of a carpenter and fallen to Rs. 22-8-0 from Rs. 26-4-0

in 1914. Wage-rates of common labourer, mason and blacksmith remained at 1914 level. As a matter of fact, prices of foodgrains in the year 1918, both of rice and wheat were higher as compared to the year 1914, but the wage-rates appear to have remained unaffected. It is, however, not possible to relate wage-rates of skilled and unskilled workers in a particular year with the prices of essential commodities in that year. The increase in wage-rates to materialize in the wake of increased prices of the commodities is a time-taking process. Similar is the case with falling prices and reduction of wage-rates. The wage-rates have a tendency to stick to the level once achieved. Demand factor is also particularly important in determining the wage-rates. The prices of foodgrains in the post-First World War period were generally higher then those in the decade before the War. In the post-war decade highest price of rice was in the year 1920 and that of wheat and gram in 1921. The wage-rates in the year 1921 had, therefore, reached a new high. A common labourer got Rs. 9 per month, a mason got Rs. 30, a carpenter and a blacksmith Rs. 38 per month, respectively. While wage-rates of common labourer in the subsequent two years remained the same as in 1921, there was a substantial drop in the wage-rates of skilled workers. Mason's wage in 1922 and 1923 was Rs. 22-8-0 per month. Carpenter's wage was 22-8-0 in 1922 but increased to Rs. 25 per month in 1923. Wage rates of blacksmith for both the years 1922 and 1923 were Rs. 25 per month. These downward changes in the wage-rates of skilled labourers could only be explained as being a result of decline in demand for the particular type of labour. In the year 1925, there was a general rise in wage-rates of all categories of the workers. Increase in the wage-rate of an agricultural labourer was the highest. From Rs. 9 per month in the year 1923 the rate had increased to Rs. 20 as mininum and Rs. 25 as maximum. Mason's wage-rate was from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 per month. Carpenter's wage-rate was Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 per month, and that of blacksmith was Rs. 30 per month. These rates remained unchanged up to the year 1929. In the year 1930, the downward trend in wage-rates had set in. As has been observed in the earlier section dealing with prices, this was the year of a substantial fall in the prices of foodgrains also. The world-wide economic depression had its impact on the prices as well as on wages in the District. In the year 1931, the wage-rate of the agricultural labourer was Rs. 6 per month, a level which was obtained in the year 1911. The wages for mason and blacksmith were Rs. 22 per month and those of a carpenter Rs. 20. This was the year of lowest wage-rates for all categories of workers during the period from 1930 to 1939; because in the year 1932, the wages for agricultural labourer increased to Rs. 7-8-0 per month and those for skilled labourers i.e., mason carpenter and blacksmith, to Rs. 25 per month. While there were marginal changes in the wage-rate of agricultural labourer i.e., from 7-8-0 to Rs. 8 and from Rs. 8 to Rs. 7, there was no change in the rates of wages for skilled workers which remained constant at Rs. 25 per month.

In the year 1939 the rate of wages for agricultural labourer was Rs 7 per month and for skilled workers Rs. 25 per month. There was no immediate

impact on the rates of wages as a result of the outbreak of the Second World War. In the year 1940, the wage-rate of common labourer was quoted from Rs. 4 to Rs. 7, that of a mason and carpenter from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 and that of a worker in iron and hardware from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 per month. It appears that as the situation regarding prices of foodgrains began to worsen in the subsequent years of the War the rates of wages increased. The wage-rate of common labourer which was Rs. 3-8-0 to Rs. 7 per month in 1942, increased to the maximum of Rs. 22 per month in 1945, the minimum rate in the same year being Rs. 16 per month. From Rs. 12 to 25 per month in 1942, mason's wage-rate was Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per month in 1945. Carpenter's wage-rate in 1945 was the same as mason's. The worker in iron and hardware, however, got Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per month in 1945 as against Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 per month that he got in 1942. As in case of prices, so in case of wages, increase during actual War years was not much as in case of post-War year. Immediately following the cessation of hostilities in the year 1946, the rates of wages for all types of workers increased substantially. Rate of wages for common labourer was from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per month, for mason and worker in iron and hardware the wage-rate was from Rs. 60 to Rs. 90, and for carpenter from Rs. 75 to Rs. 105 per month. In the year 1949 monthly wage-rate of a common labourer was Rs. 30 to 40 and mason and carpenter got from Rs. 90 to Rs. 120, while the wage-rate of a worker in hardware was from Rs. 100 to Rs. 120. From the year 1950 to 1955 the wage-rates for the above four categories of workers were.—

(In Rs. per month)

Year	Common labourer	Mason	Carpenter	Worker in iron and hardware
1950	25 to 30	90 to 105	75 to 105	90 to 105
1951	25 to 30	90 to 105	90 to 105	90 to 105
1952	22 to 30	90 to 100	95 to 105	90 to 105
1953	22 to 30	90 to 100	95 to 105	90 to 100
1954	22 to 30	90 to 105	90 to 105	90 to 105
1955	22 to 30	75	120	90

From the data given as above the fluctuations in the rate of wages appear to be an exception and wage-rates appear to be stabilizing at Rs. 22 to Rs. 30 for common labourer and Rs. 90 to Rs. 105 per month for workers in the skilled categories. The year 1955, however, appears as one of downward shift in the wage-rate of mason and upward in case of carpenter. This might be due to local conditions of demand and supply for these two categories of workers.

The rates of wages for agricultural labour in the rural areas of the District from 1956 to 1960 were.—

(In Rs. per day)

Year and month	Other agricultural labourer	Carpenter	Blacksmith
1956 May	1.81	2.00	2.00
1957 June	1.00	2.00	1.50
1958 "	1.13	2.13	1.50
1959 "	1.19	3.00	2.00
1961 July	1.31	3.00	1.62
1962 "	1.25	3.00	2.06
1963 "	1 25	3.00	2.00

It is not possible to compare these rates of wages with those given for the earlier years because the series used upto 1955 pertain to monthly rates for workers in urban areas. However, taking the rates of wages from 1956 onwards, though for different months in the year, show a tendency to increase at least in case of skilled labour like carpenter and blacksmith. This increase in the rates of wages might be traced to the local shortage of these categories of the workers, many of whom might have moved to the urban areas in search of better job opportunities with the establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant. Further average year-wise figures are being given below which show more or less the same trend.

(In Rs. per day)

Year	Other Agricultural labourer	Capital	Blacksmith
1964	1.10	3.52	1.99
1965	2.27	3.40	1.59
1966	1.17	4.18	1.74
1967	1.22	3.25	2.28
1968	1.25	3.09	1.92
1969	1.28	3.25	2.15

Standard of living

With a view to finding out the impact of the major project like Bhilai Steel Plant on the local economy, Socio-Economic Survey of the region was conducted under the aegis of the Research Programmes Committee, Planning Commission, Government of India during the period 1955 to 1959. For the purpose of this Survey, a circle with a radius of 10 miles and Bhilai as centre was drawn and area inside this circle formed a rural region of the Survey. Within this circle three strata were demarcated. The first stratum included the 19 villages acquired for the Plant site. The second stratum consisted of 40 villages surrounding the stratum one, to be acquired at a later stage. The remaining 102 villages located within the radius of 10 miles formed the third stratum. The towns of Raipur and Durg, in between which the Bhilai Project is located approximately eight miles from Durg and 17 miles from Raipur, formed the urban stratum. Results of this Survey are available stratum-wise for three rounds of the Survey. Socio-economic characteristics of the population surveyed in the second and third rounds referring to the years 1956-57 and 1957-58, respectively, have been utilized as they have a bearing on some of the measurable aspects of the standard of living in that part of the population.

For the second and third strata, i.e., 40 villages around the 19 acquired for Plant site and 102 villages located within the 10 mile radius, respectively, the average size of the family was 4.75 and 4.45 at the time of the second round (1956-57). This has underwent a change at the time of the third round (1957-58) the figures for the two strata being 4.62 and 5.40, respectively. It is interesting to see the changes in the economic status of the sample population, given as under.—

Economic status	Second Round		Third Round	
	Stratum II	Stratum III	Stratum II	Stratum III
Earners	48.75	48.73	53.86	48.13
Earning Dependents	5.12	6.40	0.95	3.67
Non-earning dependents	46.13	44.87	45 19	48.20

It is remarkable that the proportion of non earning dependents for both rounds was more or less the same as earners in both strata. The percentage of labour force in agriculture, livestock, fishing, forestry, hunting, etc., in the year of the second round was 8.547 in stratum two. This had increased to 87.07 at the time of the third round. In stratum three the percentage happened to be as high as 88.21 for second round. In the third round this had fallen a little to 87.25. This shows the predominance of agriculture and allied activities as the sources of livelihood of the population.

The average monthly income of sample families in stratum two for the second round was Rs. 74.9. At the time of the third round it was

Rs. 87.5. For stratum three the income figures were Rs. 69.2 and Rs. 89.3 for the second and the third rounds, respectively. As against this the average monthly expenditure figures were Rs. 72.0 and Rs. 77.6 for second and third rounds, respectively for the sample families in stratum two. In stratum three the respective figures for the second and third rounds were Rs. 64.2 and Rs. 81.2. These figures indicate that average monthly income figures for the families in both strata for the years in which second and third rounds of enquiry were conducted, were higher than the corresponding figures on average monthly expenditure. The excess of expenditure over income was found in the income group of Rs. 51 to Rs. 100 for both the strata in both the rounds. Generally it was found that the families in the lower income brackets had to overspend. The distribution of total monthly family expenditure by major items was.—

Items of Expenditure	Stratum II		Stratum III	
	Second Round	Third Round	Second Round	Third Round
Food	62.82	65 74	66.68	65.60
Cloting and footwear	13.96	13.26	12.27	13.48
Fuel and lighting	6.14	5.81	7 12	5 63
House rent, repairs etc.	2.40	1.33	0.96	1.89
Miscellaneous	14.78	13.86	12.97	13 40

From the Table above, the pattern of expenditure for the sample families from stratum three seems to have changed for the better at the time of the third round. Percentage expenditure on food had fallen and that on clothing and footwear, as well as on miscellaneous items increased. This change, when taken along with the increase in average family size in stratum three from 4.45 at the time of the second to 5.40 at the time of the third round, becomes all the more striking especially where expenditure an food is concerned. For the sample families in stratum two the proportionate expenditure on food had increased in the third round over that of the second round in spite of the decline in the average size of the family from 4.75 in the second to 4.62 in the third round. Expenditure on all other items had fallen, which might, however, be referred to the decline in the average size of the family, as increase in other items of expenditure in the third round in stratum three might be referred to the increase in the average size of the family.

After considering the income and expenditure pattern of the sample families the data regarding the percentage of indebted to the total sample families may be of help in getting an idea of the economic condition of the population in the region. In stratum two at the second round the percentage of indebted in the total sample families was 51.62; at the time of the third round in the same stratum the percentage was 57.50. In stratum three percentages at the time of the second and third rounds were 52 47 and 55.16, respectively. The figures regarding distribution of debts by size as under are illuminating.

Stratum	Second Round		Third Round	
	Below Rs. 500	Above Rs. 501	Below Rs. 500	Above Rs. 501
II	76.9	23.1	41.1	58.9
III	56.6	43.4	38.4	61.6

The Table shows that at the time of the third round the percentages of families indebted to the extent of Rs. 501 and more had increased considerably in both strata, with a corresponding decline in percentages of families below Rs. 500. From amongst the causes of indebtness, maintenance and agricultural operations happened to be the major ones.

The nature of housing, i.e., the type of construction *kutcha* and *pucka*, shows that from both the strata 99 percent of sample families dwelt in *kutcha* houses at the time of the second round and 97 percent at the time of the third round. Thus only one per cent and three percent of the total sample families lived in *pucka* houses at the time of the second and third rounds, respectively. Distribution of families by the number of occupied rooms was.—

Number of Rooms	Stratum II		Stratum III	
	Second Round	Third Round	Second Round	Third Round
1-3	92.8	81.8	87.8	80.5
4-5	7.2	13.8	9.2	15.5
6-7	—	3.1	2.4	3.2
8 and over	—	1 3	0.6	0.8

These figures show slight improvement, in housing and accommodation. It may, however, be noted here that ventilation was poor in more than 50 per cent of the houses. Nearly 60 to 70 per cent houses during the second round 60 to 80 per cent during the third round did not have any kitchen. Privilege of bathing facitities was denied for about 92 to 99 per cent of the houses and when this is read with the fact that latrines were practically non-existent for houses in both the strata, it gives a finishing touch, as it were to the cent per cent rural dwelling conditions.

Recreation facilities like games, newspapers, and library facilities did not exist in most of the sample villages in the two strata. Some interesting data, regarding distribution of sample population by consumption of pan, tea, tobacco etc., shows the trend in habit formation.—

Articles	Stratum II		Stratum III	
	Second Round	Third Round	Second Round	Third Round
Pan	2 0	2.7	0.5	1.1
Tea	3.4	5.4	7.0	8.4
Tobacco	26.2	27.5	28.4	23.9
Pan and Tea	1.5	1.0	0.8	4.4
Pan and Tobacco	3 0	4.6	1.9	2.1
Tea and Tobacco	2.7	12.3	4.1	7.8
Pan, Tea and Tobacco	3.4	4.0	3.7	6.6

These figures broadly indicate that *pan* with tobacco is a more favoured combination than *pan* with tea. Percentages of families taking to the consumption of tea has increased as also those of the consumers of *pan*.

About 25 to 40 per cent of the sample households owned bullock carts while possession of bicycles was reported by about five per cent of the households.

It is difficult from the information as given above to state anything about the standard of living of the population and different classes thereof in the District. The objective of the Survey was to collect bench-mark data with a broad time band so that through a comparison of these data with those to be collected at a later date, the processes of economic change following large scale investment in an underdeveloped and backward economy could be studied and not of ascertaining the standard of living or charges therein. The strata second and third comprised only a part of the vast rural areas in the District. The second and third rounds of enquiries were related to the years 1956-57 and 1957-58 when the Steel Plant was in its early stage of construction. The information given above at its best outlines the eddies created by throwing of a stone in the placid waters of a stagnating pool. The changes that are coming may, however, have a bearing on the standard of living, which with its complex of qualitative and quantitative aspects is difficult to assess. In the absence of any other information having even a remote bearing on the topic, the results of the Survey were utilized which hint at the socio-economic changes capable of objective measurement.

GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

Earlier in this Chapter, in the section regarding Livelihood Pattern, it was pointed out that 80.19 per cent of the total "workers" were engaged in agriculture at the time of 1961 Census. Production other than cultivation of 1951 Census classification engaged 5.93 per cent of the total "workers". This percentage in equivalent class of 1961 Census increased to 10.95. With the increase in population of the District, of the order of 27.23 per cent from 1951 to 1961, progress in industrialization of the District consequent upon the establishment of

Bhilai Steel Plant, the increase in the level of employment in industrial sector was natural. The index of employment for both Public and Private sectors, which was 152.3 at the end of March 1965, registered an increase and stood at 166.4 by the end of March, 1966. This increase in the index of employment was registered in spite of the fact that there was a continuous decrease in the employment provided by the establishments engaged in the construction activities in and around Bhilai Steel plant and in the manufacturing industries. There was a retrenchment of 5,580 employees of the Bhilai Steel Plant during the period ending March, 1966.

The employment position in the Private Sector showed a downward trend. In this Sector, total employment at the end of March, 1965 was 12,990 which had fallen to 11,606 by March, 1966.

In the Public Sector, however, there was a slight increase during the period. The total employment by the end of March, 1966 was 68,989 as against 68,830 by March, 1965.

The date regarding employment situation in the Disirict in the Public and Private seetor establishments, employing 10 and more employees as collected under the Employment Market Information Scheme by the Employment Exchange, Bhilai are given below, upto the latest available period.

Sector	No. of employees as on the last working day of the month of March.									
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Agriculture and Livestock	542	608	697	783	991	1,158	1,000	950	943	1,033
Manufacturing	79,226	37,082	43,438	52,425	59,823	58,083	58,281	55,521	53,907	53,819
Construction	5,090	3,340	6,625	6,142	5,493	3,676	1.994	1,755	1.529	1,169
Electricity, Gas and Water	684	518	529	463	460	477	473	450	767	878
Trade and Commerce	456	462	414	454	507	555	634	682	683	707
Transport, Storage and Communications	452	392	470	538	541	450	277	244	196	213
Services	10,570	10,980	12,048	12,095	14,000	16.196	16,946	16,515	15,729	15,812

From the above Table, continuous rising trend in employment is observed in the Agriculture and livestock as well as in service groups. Manufacturing group which had registered a substantial fall in 1962, appears to have picked up from the next year. However, in view of the limitations of the coverage of the Scheme and non-receipt of the returns from the establishments covered, the employment data as above cannot be taken as representative of the sectoral employment situation for the District as a whole.

Employment Exchange

The Employment Exchange was set up at Durg in the month of December, 1955. The Exchange was later shifted from Durg to Bhilai township in the year 1958 with a view to ensuring better liasion between the Exchange and Bhilai Steel Project as well as other employers. Jurisdiction of the Exchange extends over the District of Durg. The Exchange was raised to a Divisional status in the year 1961.

The Employment Market Information Scheme covering Public and Private sectors was taken up by the Exchange in the year 1959. Under the Scheme man-power data are collected from all Public and Private sector establishments employing 10 and more workers.

One Employment Information and Assistance Bureau was started at Rajnandgaon in the District in December, 1961. A Junior Employment Officer was placed in charge of this Bureau. The Bureau was set up to check the influx of rural population to urban areas and keep the rural population informed of the job opportunities. In the year 1964 this Bureau was shifted from Rajnandgaon to Chowki, a Community Development Block.

The Vocational Guidance Scheme has not been introduced at this Employment Exchange.

The working of this Employment Exchange from 1956 onwards can be seen from the following data regarding registration of the employment seekers and their placement.

Year	Registration	Placing	No. on Live Register
1956	6.539	504	2,592
1957	11 852	1,794	5,362
1958	34 288	4,869	11.186
1959	51,672	11,398	12,255
1960	34,308	2,686	4,903
1961	31,006	4,345	9,965
1962	34.988	5,436	14 426
1963	40.545	6,271	28,035
1964	25,496	7.582	17 082
1965	32,385	10,856	1[illegible],329
1966	24,526	4,337	19 355
1967	24,275	3,776	20,963
1968	21,481	2,207	23,735
1969	24,695	3,934	18 471
1970	15.755	5,110	13,953

Note :—The figures for 1966 are for the period upto the month of September, 1966.

NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Programme is an integrated and comprehensive approach which is simultaneously economic and social, aimed at both future production and current welfare. Its theory is that change cannot take place in isolated fragments of a society, but must be a total process involving the total person and the entire community. The energies upon which it depends are mainly those of the people. The formal community development programme was initiated in the Country in the year 1952 as an experimental measure.

The first Community Development Block was started at Patan in the District on the 2nd October, 1953. Thereafter, during the First Five Year Plan period four more Blocks were started, making a total of five Blocks during the First Plan. All the four Blocks were started on the 1st April, 1954. Patan Block consisted of 162 villages with a population of 83,412 persons. Khairagarh Block had 227 villages with 67,216 persons. Rajnandgaon, Berla and Kawardha Blocks had 154, 147 and 183 villages and population in these Blocks was 1,04,780, 70,860 and 62,034, respectively.

During the Second Five Year Plan period ten more Blocks were started in the District as under :—

S. No.	Name of Block	Date of Establishment	No. of Villages	Population
1.	Saja	1-4-56	198	70,9.3
2.	Balod	1-4-56	167	61,953
3.	Durg	2-10-56	106	77,885
4.	Chuikhadan	2-10-56	263	56,720
5.	Dongargarh	1-4-57	178	77,055
6.	Gunderdehi	2-10-57	166	82,735
7.	Dhamdha	2-10-57	193	82,264
8.	Sahaspurlohara	2-10-58	148	50,615
9.	Chowki	2-10-59	241	59,100
10.	Dongargaon	1-4-60	136	65,338

Thus by the end of the Second Five Year Plan 2,669 villages with a population of 10,72,880 persons were covered under the Community Development Programme.

During the following two years, i.e., 1961 and 1962, seven more Blocks as under were started in the District.

S. No.	Name of Block	Date of Establishment	No. of Villages	Population
1.	Gurur	1-4-61	149	66,038
2.	Nawagarh	1-10-61	184	75,587
3.	Dondilohara	1-4-62	160	75,275
4.	Chhuria	1-4-62	220	86,912
5.	Bodla	1-4-62	328	46,925
6.	Bemetara	2-10-62	192	66,654
7.	Manpur	2-10-62	311	47,817

Setting up of these additional Blocks increased the number of villages covered by 1,544 with a population of 465,208, making a total number of 4,213 villages and 15,38,088 persons. In percentage terms population covered under the Community Development activities was 76.16. As the rural population in the District formed 88 per cent of the total population it may safely be stated that coverage under the Community Development Programme at the beginning of the Third Five Year Plan was substantial. The activities in the Development Blocks might be broadly divided as those relating to agriculture, health and sanitation, education and cooperation.

Agriculture.—Block development activities in this connection are usually confined to the provision of improved seeds and fertilizers, demonstrations of better farming methods, creation of minor-irrigation facilities, etc. Thus during the Second Five Year Plan period in all the 15 Blocks 98,909 maunds (36920-01 quintals) of improved seeds and 421.217 maunds(1,57,229.18 quintals)of chemical fertilizers were distributed. In the year 1961-62 and 1962-63, the quantity of improved seeds distributed in all the 22 Blocks was 23,674 maunds (8799.51 quintals) and 18,056 maunds (6739.82 quintals). Chemical and other fertilizers distributed during these two years were 85,475 maunds (31,905.56 quintals) and 1,84,139 maunds (68,655.83 quintals), respectively.

During the Second Plan period 14,010 demonstrations of improved agricultural practices were given. In the year 1961-62, and 1962-63 such demonstrations numbered 2,566 and 3,531, respectively.

In the matter of tank and well irrigation the number of new irrigation wells constructed was 97, while the number of old wells renovated was 82 in the Second Plan period. Besides these 29 tanks were constructed during the same period for irrigation purposes. The number of new *kutcha* and *pucka* irrigation wells and tanks constructed during 1961-62 was 366 and 23, respectively. Repairing work was done in case of 124 wells and 30 tanks during the same year. In the following year 1962-63, construction of wells and tanks was of the order of 329 wells and five tanks. Renovated old wells and tanks numbered 252 and 53, respectively.

Reclamation of land is another important activity connected with improvement of agriculture. The Second Five Year Plan record in this connection was 10,072 acres (4053.549 hectares) of land reclamation, followed by 3,973 acres (1607.817 hectares) and 9,579 acres (3876.487 hectares) during the years 1961-62 and 1962-63, respectively.

Health and Sanitation.—Record of work in this respect during the Second Plan period in all the 15 Blocks that were in existence during the period consisted of the estabilishment of 20 Primary Health Centres, construction of 354 drinking water wells repairs to 190 old wells and construction of 10,857 yards (9,928 metres) of pucka drains. In the year 1961-62 and 1962-63, 13 Primary Health Centres were function in the Block areas. In addtion there were 44 rural dispensaries functioning in the year 1961-62 and 28 in the year 1962-63. The number of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres functioning in the Block areas during these two years was 22 and 12 respectively. The number of new drinking water wells constructed was 123 and 95 in the years 1961-62 and 1962-63; the number of drinking water wells renovated in these years was 29 and 79, respectively.

Education.—During the Second Five Year Plan period Block Development activities in this shpere were mainly concentrated on adult education. For this purpose 281 adult literacy centres were started in the Block areas. A total of 5.062 adults were made literate during this period. The number of reading rooms started was 278. In the following year there was much activity in the starting of basic type schools besides adult literacy centres. This may be seen from the fact that number of such schools functioning in the Block areas was 959 and 292 during the years 1961-62 and 1962-63; while enrolment in these schools was of the order of 64,767 and 94,030 in the respective years. The adult literacy centres started during these two years were 55 in 1961-62 and 50 in 1962-63. Through these centres 740 and 588 adults were made literate during the two years, respectively. Number of reading rooms started during the year 1961-62 was 26 and 46 in the year 1962-63. In order to train the teachers peripatetic camps were also held during these two years.

Co-operation.—Much stress has been laid on the co-operatives as a means for the economic development of the rural houses in the Block Development Programme. In pursuance of this policy during the Second Five Year Plan period 654 co-operative societies were organized in the Community Block areas. In the years 1961-62 and 1962-63 while the number of societies already functioning in the Block areas was 834 and 815, respectively, the societies started during these two years numbered 118 in 1961-62 and 79 in the year 1962-63.

In the matter of the development of transport facilities, 1,039 miles (1672 Kms) of new *kutcha* roads and 109 culverts were completed during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Amongst the cultural activities in the Block areas setting up of Recreation Centres, organization of *Mahila Samitis*, Youth Camps, Children's Camps and Farmers' Unions, were some of the important activities undertaken by the Block Development authorities.

During the Second Five Year Plan period the total expenditure incurred by the Government on Community Development Programme was of the order of Rs. 102.12 lakhs. People's contribution amounted to Rs. 17.97 lakhs. During the years 1961-62 and 1962-63 of the Third Five Year Plan, expenditure incurred by the Government on the Programme was Rs. 9,32 and Rs. 15.72 lakhs and people's contribution in these years amounted to Rs. 3.59 and Rs. 6.91 lakhs, respectively.

Through the Community Development Programme rural masses are being imparted a wider vision in the socio-economic fields of activities and though the quantitative assessment of benefits derived from these activities is difficult to make, yet the consciousness that has been created by them among the rural masses for their socio-economic betterment is obvious.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Before dealing with the general administration of the District in the present day context, it will not be out of place to give a brief resume of the evolution of District Administration in India. The concept of District as a unit of administration was derived from the pattern of the French Prefecture, with the District Officer as the Prefect When the East India Company was made the governing agency of the British Government in London, it took over the administration and gave up trading altogether. The Company's Chief Representative in the District became the Collector of land revenue. Simultaneously, the official became responsible for the maintenance of law and order too. The next phase in the evolution was reached when the Collector not only levied and collected land revenue and other taxes and, as a Disteict Magistrate, maintained law and order, but in doing so he functioned also as a judicial officer. To assist him there was a District Superintendent of Police. Later, when the necessity of rendering medical aid to the people was felt, the Civil Surgeon came into the picture.

Thus gradually the District Administration grew into a complex apparatus: the Collector and Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police, the Civil Surgeon, then the District Judge, the Engineer (S.D.O.) for public works, the District Education Officer and so forth. But the District Collector continued to exercise overall control of the entire District administration.

With the introduction of the Local Self-Government institutions, the Collector had to assume the new responsibility of co-ordination.

After Independence the Collector has been vested with more powers in respect of the developmental work To be brief, now he is responsible for the maintenance of law and order, revenue administration, economic development activities, and the cultural and social advancement in the District. Rightly has it been said[1] that the District Collector is the central pivot of the District administration.

Collectorate

The Collector of Durg has one Additional Collector, three Assistant Collectors and sixteen Deputy Collectors to assist him. Five of the Deputy

1 S.S Khera, District Administration in India, p. 254.

Collectors are in charge of a Sub-Division each of Durg, Balod, Bemetara, Khairagarh and Kawardha, whereas Rajnandgaon Sub-Division is under the charge of one of the Assistant Collectors. The Additional Collector and the remaining Deputy and Assistant Collectors assist the Collector in the work relating to Law and Order, Development, Treasury, Food and Civil Supplies, Election, Land Revenue, Land Records, Consolidation of Land, etc. The narrative on the organisational set-up of the Collectorate may be divided into three main groups, viz., (i) Land Revenue, Land Records, Consolidation of Land and other allied matters, (ii) Law and Order, and (iii) Development.

Land Revenue and Land Records

For the administration of the first group of subjects, Durg District is divided into six tahsils, each tahsil constituting a Sub-Division. Each Sub-Division is in charge of a Sub- Divisional Officer of the rank of a Deputy Collector, except Rajnandgaon which is in the charge of an Assistant Collector. They are also the Sub-Divisional Magistrates. Each Sub-Divisional Officer is incharge of the Janapad Sabha of the tahsil, and is styled Chief Executive Officer while discharging duties pertaining thereto. There is a Tahsildar and an Additional Tahsildar in each of the 6 Tahsils except Bemetara which has three Tahsildars. They are assisted by Naib Tahsildars, who number six at Durg, four at Balod, five at Bemetara, two at Kawardha, three at Khairagarh and four at Rajnandgaon tahsil.

At the village level, the revenue, and land records work is carried on by the Patwari whose office in the past was hereditary. There are in all 721 Patwaris in the District, each incharge of a Circle. Each Patwari Circle is constituted of about 6 villages. Superivising their work there are 41 Revenue Inspectors. The following table gives details of the distribution of work in each tahsil.

Tahsils	No. of R. I. Circles	No. of Patwari Circles
1. Durg	10	168
2. Bemetara	7	152
3. Kawardha	5	62
4. Khairagarh	6	93
5. Rajnandgaon	5	98
6. Balod	8	148
District Total	41	721

At the District level, a Superintendent of Land Records, assisted by six Assistant Superintendents, supervises the work of Revenue Inspectors and Patwaris.

Law and Order

In the maintenance of law and order the Collector as District Magistrate is assisted by the magistracy and the police. There are 23 Magistrates (including 2 Additional District Magistrates and 6 Sub-Divisional Magistrates) in the District. The police force of the District is headed by a Superintendent of Police. The revenue officers of the District, including Naib-Tahsildars, enjoy such magisterial powers under the Criminal Procedure Code as are necessary for effective maintenance of law and order, and prevention and suppression of crime. Under this arrangement, the Collector functions as the District Magistrate while the Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collector, Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars are styled as Executive Magistrates.

Development

As has been mentioned earlier, the Collector is assisted by a Deputy Collector in the work relating to the development section of the Collectorate. There are 24 development blocks[1] in the District, viz., Durg, Patan, Dhamdha and Gunderdehi in Durg tahsil; Balod, Chowki, Mohla, Manpur, Dondi-Lohara, Gurur and Dondi in Balod Tahsil; Bemetara, Saja, Nawagarh and Berla in Bemetara tahsil; Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan and Dongargarh in Khairagarh tahsil; Rajnandgaon, Chhuria and Dongargaon in Rajnandgaon tahsil and Sahaspur-Lohara, Bodla and Kawardha in Kawardha tahsil. Each block is provided with a team of Extension Officers drawn from various departments including Agriculture, Veterinary, Industries, Public Health, and Social Education. Further down there are village level workers, both men and women, know as Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas, respectively.

In order to ensure effective participation of people in planning and execution of development programmes, a Block Advisory Committee is constituted at each Block the pattern of which is uniform throughout the State. Headed by the District Collector, the Committee consists of local members of the Parliament and State Assembly, Chairman of the Janpada Sabhas, members of Gram Panchayats, etc. The Committee advises in formulation of Working Plans and Development programmes of the Block, reviews the progress made, and promotes people's participation and co-operation, especially in such programmes as are oriented towards increased agricultural production.

The Collector is also associated with a number of other Committees in the District. Important among these is the District Advisory Committee, constituted in 1958 in every District of Madhya Pradesh in pursuance of the policy of the Government. The Collector is the Chairman of this Committee which consists of several non-officials such as local Members of the Vidhan Sabha, Members of the Parliament, Chairman of Janpada Sabhas, etc., as

1 Prior to 1st Jancvary, 1966, each Block was headed by a Block Development Officer, but the post January, was then abolished and the office was placed in the charge of the seniormost Agricultural Extension Officer under the designation Co-ordinator. Now the former post has been revived as Block Development Assistant with effect from 2nd October, 1969.

members. The functions of this Committee are advisory in nature. Problems purely of local importance are discussed by this Committee.

Statutory Powers of Collector

The Collector is also vested with statutory powers under Excise Act, so as to enable him to implement the excise and Prohibition policy of the Government. For this purpose, the District is divided into twelve circles. A team of 20 Excise Sub-Inspectors has been earmarked by the Government for the purpose. Supervising their work there is the District Excise Officer, and three Inspectors of Excise.

The control of the District Treasury and Sub-Treasuries is vested in the Collector. A Deputy Collector functions as Treasury Officer of the District Treasury at Durg, while the six Sub-Treasuries at Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Kawardha, Bemetara, Balod, and Dongargarh are in charge of the respective Sub-Treasury Officers who are of the rank of Naib-Tahsildars, except at Bemetara, where a Tahsildar is in charge of the Sub-Treasury.

From 5th January, 1967, this arrangement of treasury is, however, changed. An Officer of the Madhya Pradesh Accounts Services has taken over as Treasury Officer replacing the Deputa Collector in charge of Treasury at Durg. So also the Sub-Treasury at Rajnandgaon is since manned by an Officer belonging to Madhya Pradesh Subordinate Accounts Services replacing the Naib Tahsildar who was in charge of Sub-Treasury at Rajnandgaon. Remaining arrangement continues to be as before. The Collector is also charged with authority under Registration Act. In this work too, he is assisted by the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) of the District Headquaters, who functions as ex-officio District Registrar. In addition, there are eight Sub-Registration Offices, located at Durg, Balod, Bemetara, Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Kawardha, Dongargarh, and Chouki.

The Headquarters Sub-Registrar's Office, Durg is amalgamated with the office of the District Registrar. Headquarters Sub-Registrar as against other Sub-Registrars, exercises powers of the District Registrar under section 16, 25, 30 (i), 34, 72 to 77 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908.

The Collector is also assigned work relating to many other miscellaneous subjects, such as Elections, Food and Civil Supplies, Agriculture, Consolidation of land, etc. The work relating to Food and Civil Supplies is entrusted to one of the Deputy Collectors of the District. He is assisted by 1 Assistant Food Officer and 32 Food and Civil Supplies Inspectors. For the purpose of the consolidation of land, there are two Consolidation Offices in the District under Consolidation Officer Party No. 1 and Consolidation Officer Party No. 2, respectively. One Deputy Collector supervises their work.

The Collector works as an agent of the State Government in the District and is the chief co-ordinating authority at the District level. In order to strengthen his position as the chief administrator of the District, the State Government on the 20th September, 1965 conferred upon him various powers. Now the Collector is authorised to issue instructions, almost of mandatory nature to any District level officer except those of the Judiciary, Labour and Sales Tax Department. But in the event of the District Officer concerned feeling that the instructions issued are either wrong or impracticable, he could refer the matter to the Commissioner of the Division. The Commissioner is authorised to take the final decision in consultation with the Head of the Department concerned. Beside this, the Collector has also been empowered to inspect the District offices.

Further, every important scheme to be implemented in the District has to be brought to the notice of the Collector, so that he could keep an eye on the progress of work.

Other District Level Offices

The following is the list of other District level and Regional officers, who are administratively under the control of their own Heads of Departments.

1. District and Sessions Judge, Rajnandgaon
2. Additional District and Sessions Judges, I and II, Durg
3. Superintendent of Police, Durg
4. Civil Surgeon, Durg
5. Divisional Forest Officer, Durg. Division, Durg
6. Divisional Forest Officer, North Durg Division, Rajnandgaon
7. Divisional Forest Officer (Soil Conservation), Khairagarh
8. Superintending Engineer, Kharkhara Project Irrigation, Durg
9. Executive Engineer (Irrigation), Surhi canal, Chhuikhadan
10. Executive Engineer (Irrigation), Tandula Project, Durg
11. Executive Engineer, Kharkhara Head Works Division, No. I, Damsite
12. Executive Engineer, Kharkhara Canal Division No. I
13. Executive Engineers, Kharkhara Canal Division No. II
14. Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (Building & Roads), Durg
15. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Durg
16. District Excise Officer, Durg
17. Sales Tax Officer, Durg
18. Sales Tax Officer, Rajnandgaon
19. District Panchayats and Welfare Officer, Durg
20. District Live Stock Officer, Durg
21. Public Relations Officer, Durg
22. District Statistical Officer, Durg

23. Inspector, Weights and Measure, Durg
24. Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies, Durg
25. District Education Officer, Durg
26. District Fisheries Officer, Durg
27. Divisional Employment Officer, Bhilai
28. District Organiser, Tribal Welfare, Durg
29. Deputy Director of Industries, Durg
30. Additional Director of Industries, Durg

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

The following are some of the offices of the Government of India located in Durg District. The organisational set-up of these, is briefly as follows:

Office of the Post Master, Durg

The Post Master, with his Head Office at Durg, is in charge of post-offices. With the help of one Deputy Post-Master, four Assistant Post-Masters, one Town Inspector, one Accountant and usual office and subordinate staff, he carries out the postal work at Durg. He is, directly subordinate to the Senior Superintendent of Post-Offices, South Chhattisgarh Division, Raipur, who in his turn is subordinate to the Post-Master-General, Madhya Pradesh Circle, Bhopal.

Small Savings

For the purpose of propagating the Small Savings Scheme, and for inculcating the habit of savings among the people, there are two offices of the District Organisers, National Savings, in the District. One is established at Durg Collectorate and the other at Bhilai. The District Organiser, National Savings Scheme, Durg, is having jurisdiction over Durg District, excluding the Bhilai Steel Plant area.

For the year 1965-66, the target of 152 lacs was fixed for the District for net collection, which was not only completed but even exceeded by 7 lacs.

At Bhilai Steel Plant, there are three District Organisers looking after this work. Under the Pay Roll Savings Group 15000 new members were enrolled in 1965-66 with a total monthly collection of Rs. 150,000, from them. This Pay Roll Savings Group is the largest Pay Roll Savings Group in India.

These District Organisers are under the administrative control of the Assistant Regional Director, National Savings, Raipur Division, with his headquarter at Bhilai, who in his turn is controlled by the Regional Director, National Savings Scheme, Madhya Pradesh, Indore.

Railways

Durg Railway Station is situated on Main Line of South Eastern Railway 265 Km. from Nagpur and 866 Km. from Howrah. The administration of the Station is under the control of the Station Master, S.E. Railway, Durg, who is assisted by three Assistant Station Master. There are various other offices attached to the Station, Parcel Office, Goods Shed, T.X.R. Office, Electricity Supervisor's Office, etc. These offices are headed either by the Head-Clerks or by the Supervisors who are all under the control of the Divisional Superintendent, South Eastern Railway, Bilaspur.

Other important railway stations in Durg District are Bhilai, Rajnandgaon and Dongargarh. Dongargarh is also provided with a loco-shed in charge of a Mechanical Engineer.

Income Tax

For purposes of assessments, levy and collection of Income Tax, Wealth Tax, Expenditure Tax and Gift Tax, Durg District has been divided into two circles, viz., Durg Circle and Rajnandgaon Circle, with headquarters at Durg and Rajnandgaon, respectively. The work of Durg Circle has been further split up into three Wards called A Ward, B Ward, and C Ward each under the control of separate Income Tax Officer.

Prior to 1959 the work of Income Tax in Durg Circle was looked after for sometime by the Income Tax Officer at Raipur and then also by the Income Tax Officer at Rajnandgaon. With the establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant and its further expansion, the A ward Office came into existence in 1959. Later on due to increase in work and revenue, 'B' ward was created in June, 1963 and C Ward was created in 1958. Administratively the Income Tax Circle, Durg is directly under the control of the Commissioner of Income Tax, Madhya Pradesh Bhopal.

The Income Tax Officers of Durg Circle are assisted by two Income Tax Inspectors and usual subordinate staff.

The Rajnandgaon Circle started functioning from 1st October 1949. The Income Tax Officer, Rajnandgaon, as Head of the office exercises jursidiction over Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh and Balod Tahsils and Balaghat District. He is assisted in his work by an Inspector and the usual subordinate staff. This office is under the control of Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Nagpur Range, Nagpur, who in his turn is subordinated to the Commissioner of Income Tax, Madhya Pradesh and Nagpur, Nagpur.

The assessment of the direct taxes leviable on the Bhilai Steel Plant is made at Ranchi, where as the employees are being assessed by the Income Tax Officer C Ward, Durg exclusively.

Assistant Manager, Food Trading Corporation of India

For the purpose of collecting levy of rice, paddy, jowar, etc. an office of the Food Trading Corporation of India has been established at Rajnandgaon with effect from 15th November, 1966, with an Assistant Manager as Head of the office. Previous to this, the office was under the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The office of the Assistant Manager is under administrative control of the District Manager, Food Trading Corporation of India, Raipur, who in his turn is subordinate to the Regional Manager food Trading Corporation of India at Bhopal. The office has two depots for the storage of collected levy, one at Rajnandgaon and the other at Durg. Under the Assistant Manager, these Depots are manned by technical Assistants, known as Quality Inspectors, numbering three at Rajnandgaon and three at Durg directly under a Depot incharge.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The history of rents of this District is extremely complicated partly because of its previous distribution between districts whose fiscal history is different, and partly because of the fact that some tracts in the same district were summarily settled, while others were regularly settled at the same round of settlement. Until the advent of the Marathas in 1741, the region was divided into a varying number of *talukas* held by the influential followers or relations of the Haihayavansi rulers. Villages composing the *talukas* were held by the farmers who paid the rents collected from the cultivators to the *talukadars*, who again paid a fixed proportion of their realisations as revenue to the State. The payment, doubtless, varied from time to time, according to the personal character and necessities of the Raja, and the comparative strength and weakness of the subordinate chiefs. The Rajput rule was moderate, the king as usual took his revenue from his royal demesne, and the chiefs from their estates.

The Maratha System

The Maratha system was similar to that of Nagpur, except that in Chhattisgarh, the cultivator held fields according to the relative value or *ain* put on him personally, according to the number of ploughs he had. Each ryot paid the sum or multiple or fraction of the sum, fixed as the value of one plough in his village for the year. The inequality in assessment was corrected by increasing or diminishing the area of the holdings. The village was divided into as many plots of similar land as there were ploughs entered in the assessment list, and the plots were distributed among the ryots in accordance with the number of ploughs for which each was responsible. Each plough-plot was, made to include samples of four or more kinds of soil in proportion, and hence it consisted of small, even tiny, plots scattered about. To secure the operation of the system the village was first divided into lots called *mora* of equal value, and each *mora* was subdivided into ploughs, the *mora* being worked by a group of fellow castemen as far as possible. Further, in order to ensure equality, there was a periodical redistribution, called *lakhabatta*, which though becoming much rarer had not passed into desuetude at the time of the cession, and was occassionally resorted to even after the regular settlement. If cultivation or the number of holders of a lot increased, so that the revenue responsibilities became unequally distributed, the headman (Patel or *gaontia*) assembled the people and made a redistribution.

Under Maratha rule in Chhatisgarh only the village headman was the *gaontia*. The settlement was by the assessment of each village made annually. However, it was reported that lands were never measured and the apportionment of assessment was altogether left to *gaontias* and *ryots* of whose engagements no records could be kept for the want of village registers. The *pargana* assessment was apportioned on the different villages comprising it by the *kamavishdar*, guided by former practice and the information he could obtain respecting the actual state of the villages. By this process, the relative responsibility of each ryot for the payment of the revenue was fixed irrespective of the actual amount of such payment.

System of British Protectorate

The Chhattisgarh area of the Bhonslas came for a brief spell of 12 years under British management in 1818, on account of the minority of Raghoji III. The British Superintendent maintained the prevailing system and insisted that the Patels should not exact more than was set down in the distribution list sanctioned by the Superintendent. In assessing the revenue, Col. Agnew the Suprintendent, therefore, fixed the amount to be, assessed on each *pargana* based on the receipt for previous years and reports of the *amins* and *pandcys*. The amount was calculated on the number of ploughs at the rate of 4 to 16 rupees a plough and then the total amount was apportioned to the villages by the *Kamavisdars* and *gaontias* together, while the *gaontias* and ryots afterwards decided what sum each individual was to pay.

The general policy of substituting triennial for annual settlement was not adopted during this period. In the matter of ryots' payments, the same course was adopted as in the rest of the Province. Forms were established for recording the details of the agreements entered into between the *gaontias* and *ryots*. The innovation was introduced by restricting the Patels from collecting the assessment of their villages. As *lakhabatta* was not prohibited, this measure had less effect in bringing about inequality of rents than in any other part of the Province. The result of better administration was that not only did the condition of the people improve, but that the revenue of Chhattisgarh *khalsa* also increased. When the Bhonsla Raj lapsed to the British in 1853, further progress had been made in the matter of steady increase in revenue realisations, inspite of the setbacks posed by the scarcities in 1835 and 1844.

During the next eight years, triennial settlements were resorted to, in place of the annual settlements in vogue during the Maratha regime, till the regular settlement in 1862. This decision marked the first of a series of improvements made in the fiscal administration of the District. The revenue showed continuous increase. In the then Raipur District assessment of land revenue was done in the years 1856-57, 1858-60 and 1861-62.

In dealing with the land revenue assessment of the subsequent years, it

would be necessary to treat the *khalsa* and zamindari portions of the District separately. The *khalsa* portion of the District was more directly under the management of the District authorities. The zamindars held on a somewhat different tenure from the *malguzars* and their payments called *takoli* like those of the Feudatory Chiefs, which were calculated on the revenue they would pay if they were *malguzars* and not on their assets. Secondly, their payments were not strictly on account of *pandhri*, excise, police, etc. Thirdly, owing to changes of Government policy, the *takolis* of many of the zamindars were altered during the currency of the settlement.

Regular Settlements (of Durg *khalsa*)

The first regular settlement of Durg (*Khalsa*) was conducted by G. F. K. Hewitt. The result of Hewitt's Settlement was to raise the revenue of the tract from Rs. 1,57,710 to Rs. 2,44,738, an enhancement of 55 per cent. This regular Settlement was for 20 years. This Settlement is also remarkable for the fact that rights of proprietorship were conferred for the first time on the *gaontias*, who had previously been mere farmers and collector of revenue liable to be charged at will by the *kamavisdar*.

A short-term summary settlement of that portion of the old Raipur Distrct which was subsequently transferred to Durg District except for the Thema group and the eastern half of Haldi group which had been regularly settled by Carey along with the rest of old Raipur District was made between 1884-87 for a period of 10 years. He raised the absolute occupancy rents by 11 per cent and left the others to be settled between *malguzars* and tenants.

There had been an increase of 19 per cent in the occupied area, during the currency of the first regular Settlement and the revenue rose from Rs. 2,25,438 to Rs. 2,97,224 or by 32 per cent. In the small regularly settled tract, where Carey was working on the soil-unit system, a rental enhancement of Rs. 9,544 or 24 per cent was imposed. The revenue was raised from Rs. 19,300 to Rs. 32,145 or by 67 per cent, so that the rent enhancement did not help the *malguzars* very much. The result of the second Settlement was to raise the revenue of the tract from Rs. 2,44,738 to Rs. 3,29,369 or by 35 per cent.

In 1897, E. R K. Blenkinsop commenced with the resettlement of the old Durg Tahsil. But the famines of 1896-97 and of 1899-1900 and the failure of 1902-03 compelled the Government in 1903 to abandon settlement operations after the old Durg Tahsil was regularly settled and the Sanjari Pargana was summarily settled. Blenkinsop raised the revenue of the old Durg Tahsil from Rs. 1,72,392 to Rs. 2,05,118 or by 19 per cent, and enhanced rents by Rs. 23,245 or 9 per cent. In the Sanjari group he made no change. Thus, since 1868, the revenue had been increased by 48 per cent. In January, 1905, the settlement of the Haldi and Thema groups of Sanjari Tahsil, then parts of Dhamtari Tahsil was taken up. The revised rents and revenue of the Haldi group were announced in 1908-09.

The Fourth Settlement

In Hemingways Settlement of 1908-12, the assessments were made on the soil-unit system. For each group a minimum rate was fixed below which no village was assessed. Then the group standard was fixed, as laid down in the Settlement Code. This standard was not to be exceeded except for very good cause shown, so as to obviate all dangers of rack-renting. The danger of disheartening the tenants in low-paying villages by too sudden an enhancement was met by having a standard scale for per centage enhancement which was as follows :

Tenant class	*Percentage of Enhanced Rent*
B	66
C	33
D	20

As there were definite suspicions of rent-concealment and affluent conditions of the agricultural classes the upward revision was of the order of 32 per cent of the rents of the tract.

Bemetara and Durg Tahsils and the Haldi group of Sanjari Tahsil were assessed before the Resolution of January 1911. The remaining four groups of Sanjari Tahsil were assessed strictly in accordance with the Resolution. Taking this District as a whole, the revised revenue fell at Rs. 6,11,515[1] or 52 per cent of the revised assets as against Rs. 4,37,128[2] or 52 per cent fixed at the last Settlement. The revenue enhancement was Rs. 1,75,607 or 40 per cent but as the rent enhancement amounted to Rs. 1,81,867, the malguzars stood to gain by re-settlement. The term of the Settlement covered a period of 20 years. But for 61 villages of Bemetara Tahsil, a term of 21 years was sanctioned, so that the expiry of their Settlement might coincide with that of the Settlement of the rest of the Tahsil.

Rau's Settlement (1928-32)

The period 1911 to 1928 that had intervened between Hemingway, and Rau had been of comparative prosperity marred by only one scarcity that of 1918-19 and one famine that of 1920-21. The year 1930-31 was the year of heavy slump in prices of agricultural produce brought about by world-wide economic depression. Under such circumstances the operations for the regular settlement were commenced in November, 1928 and soil classification was completed by the 20th March, 1932. However, unlike before, Rau sub-divided *kanhar* and *matasi* into two groups. The classification was the same as that of the rest of the Chhattisgarh *khalsa*.

1 Inclusive of the figures of the area settled by Hance.
2 Ibid.

During the Settlement of 1928-32, Government sanctioned rental enhancement of 30 per cent in Bemetara Tahsil, 32 per cent in Durg Tahsil and 33 per cent in Sanjari Tahsil. The total rents were raised from Rs. 7,71,642 to Rs. 10,11,484 or by 31 per cent.

An appreciable increase was obtained by the levelling up of unduly low rents. Home-farm lands were rated as if they were tenants' lands and their total valuation was increased from Rs. 4,05,148 to Rs. 5,26,294. The total revised assessment was raised from Rs. 21,160 to Rs. 30,184. The fraction of malguzari assets to be assessed as land revenue, taken for the District as a whole, worked out at 50.9 in place of 51.8 per cent at previous Settlement. The total *kamil-jama* was raised from Rs. 6,28,744 to Rs. 8,06,526 or by 28 per cent. This re-settlement was sanctioned for 30 years in accordance with the provisions of the Settlement Act, 1929, from 1st July, 1930 in Bemetara Tahsil and 1st July, 1931 in the other two tahsils.

Though the term of the 1928-32 Settlement has already expired, no fresh settlement operations have been ordered with the result that land revenue is being paid at the rates fixed at the Settlement. However, the lands which were not assessed at this Settlement can be assessed by the Collector in accordance with the provisions of the Land Revenue Code.

Zamindari Settlements

There were 13 zamindaris in the District. According to their situation, they were divided into two groups viz., 1. North-Western tract Zamindaris Comprising of. 1. Parpodi, 2. Gandai, 3. Thakurtola, 4. Silheti, 5. Barbaspur, and 6. Sahaspur.Lohara. They together held an area of 3,82,932 acres (598 sq. miles). 2. South-Western tract Zamindaris, Comprising of 1. Gunderdehi, 2. Khujji, 3. Dondi Lohara, 4. Ambagarh Chowki, 5. Panabaras, 6. Korcha, and 7. Aundhi. They comprised an area of 8,43,757 acres (1,318 sq. miles). Out of these 13 zamindaris, the last four were transferred to Durg District from Chanda District in 1907, Earlier settlements in Chanda and Chhattisgarh zamindaris have different histories and the main events are recapitulated below:—

Chhattisgarh Zamindaris

The first regular settlement was carried out by Hewitt during 1862-69. Hewitt divided zamindaris into two classes. In one class fell the zamindaris of 1. Gunderdehi, 2. Parpodi, 3. Gandai, 4.Silheti, 5. Barbaspur, 6. Thakurtola, 7. Sahaspur-Lohara, and 8. Khujji. In the area of these zamindaris, a detailed survey was made, villages being measured field by field, maps on yellow paper and settlement and *haqqivat misls* were prepared and assessment was carried out

on the lines followed in the *khalsa*. In the other class consisting of the Dondi Lohara, the cultivated land and jungles were measured separately in large blocks and no record was made of the holdings of each cultivator, but all occupied lands were shown as the zamindars' home-farm, and rough maps, settlement *misls* and *haqqivat misls* were prepared and assessment proceeded as in estates of class one.

In the zamindaris of both the classes proprietary right enquiries were made in each village. The zamindars were issued no *sanad* of any sort till 1874 when they received the ordinary malguzari *sanad* slightly altered. Revised *tokolis* were fixed for the estates after considering the collections made just before the new assessment, the revised revenue estimated to accrue, the previous payment, and the particular circumstances of each zamindari.

In 1888-89, a resettlement was taken up on purely summary lines by Carey. Enquiries were made under section 65-A of the Land Revenue Act into the claims of *thekedars* to protected status, forest *mahals* were formed, rules for forest conservancy were drawn up and zamindari *wajib-ul-arzs* were issued. In addition to the revision of land revenue *takolis*, which were more than doubled, Carey fixed forest, excise and *pandhri takolis* and calculated the sums, to be recovered from each estate to meet the cost of the patwari staff. He also gave effect to the Government's orders of 1888 assuming the management of police in the zamindaris, and on account of the cost of the police added a sum to the total *takoli* demand. No forest *kamil-jamas* were fixed and it was ordered that forest *takolis* should be liable to revision every three years. It was, however, subsequently decided to abandon this after the first triennial revision in 1892. In 1893 excise and *pandhri* were resumed by Government, the *takolis* under these heads being remitted and compensation offered, which was in some cases refused. The zamindars had also petitioned on the score of being saddled with excessive sums to meet the cost of the patwari staff. As the Government of India had ruled that the zamindars were only ordinary British subjects, the Chief Commissioner ordered that they could not be charged for patwaris at a higher rate than 6 per cent on the revenue, but that as the *takolis* had been fixed specially low on account of these new payments, the balance of the cost of the land record staff should be added to the land revenue *takolis*. Thus, the zamindars had lost all along the line. After the announcement of the revised *takolis* rents were increased considerably in most of the estates.

The resumption of police, excise and ponds and the organisation of a proper land record staff effected during the first decade of this Century resulted in far more attention being paid to the zamindaris than in the past. The zamindars found their authority curtailed in many directions, so that they were no longer able to indulge with impunity in their time-honoured practices of unlimited *begar*, reckless expoitation of forest, illegal exactions and arbitrary ouster, Concurrently the *gaontias* and tenants became more independent.

The third settlement of the zamindaris was made by J.R. Scott during the years 1899-02. The cadastral survey of the permanently established villages in the estates began in 1891 and was completed in 1895. Rent enhancement was originally contemplated in the more prosperous and advanced tracts; but since a serious check to cultivation had resulted from the effects of the recent famines of 1896-97 and 1899-1900 a representation made on behalf of the tenantry led to the abandonment of a regular settlement. Scott described his Settlement as "summary", but as a matter of fact he did touch rents; he assessed encrochments, fixed rents on lands held *bila lagan* by custom, and in a few cases where concealment was suspected, he enhanced rents to a fair level. All maps were revised and brought up to date, the alterations and corrections being duly entered in the sheets of the survey, which were thus made to serve as settlement sheets. Soils were classified and scales of soil factors proposed. Enquiries under section 65-A of the Land Revenue Act into claims of *thekedars* to protected status and occupancy rights over the home-farm were instituted. A detailed investigation into forest and miscellaneous income was carried out with the result that a total gross figure nearly doubled. A *wajib-ul-arz* in two parts was prepared and issued for each village. *Takolis* were revised in accordance with the general principles set out in a letter, dated the 3rd February, 1903, from the Commissioner of Settlements to the Chief Commissioner; and each zamindari was dealt with on its marits. The period of Settlement was fixed at 15 years, to expire on the 30th June, 1918.

Chanda Zamindari.

Lucie Smith dealt with the four Chanda estates first during 1862-69 on somewhat similar lines, as done by Hewitt but no maps were prepared. Rents were left as they were found, zamindars being at liberty to enhance them if they thought fit, and villages were apparently measured merely by their occupied lands, the areas being roughly calculated by seed-capacity. Enquiries into proprietary rights were made, but no inferior proprietors were created though considerable areas were given *malik-makbuza* status. The grantees being mostly *thekedars* who had held for many years or who had made substantial improvements. *Wajib-ul-arzes* were drawn up incorporating in them the provisions of the Chanda Patent. *Takolis* were revised on moderate lines, enhancements being made only when the forests were of a peculiar value or the income and position of the zamindari favourable. In other cases, the demand was slightly changed, merely to assert the principle that the *takoli* is subject to revision. In all, the payments for the four estates were raised form Rs. 51 to Rs. 697.

In 1888-89, the first Settlement expired and resettlement taken up on purely summary lines by Purushottam Dass in 1888. Payments were revised and income from land *kamil-jamas*, were assessed, but not on forest income. Forest *takoli* was kept separate from land revenue *takoli* and it was ordered

that it should be subject to revision every three years. In the case of Aundhi and Panabaras the assessment was peculiar in that it was directed that penal, *takoli* at five per cent should be levied on forest incomes in excess of Rs. 500 and Rs. 5,000, respectively. Forest *takoli* were so revised only once, viz., in 1892, when land revenue and forest *takolis* and the excess payments on account of the cost of patwari staff were consolidated into one lumpsum. As in ths case of Chhattisgarh zamindaris, management of police, excise and *pandhri* were resumed by the Government. After the announcement of revised *takolis*, rents were increased considerably in most cases.

Cadastral survey by Patwari Staff was started in 1895 and concluded in the following year. Next settlement was carried out by Hemingway and Chamberlain in 1901-05.

Operations in the four Chanda estates followed similar lines except that no general revision of rents was ever contemplated and soils were not classified. The enquiries conducted under section 65-A of the Land Revenue Act were the first made in these estates. This resettlement ultimately brought the simmering discontent amongst the zamindars, the result being the prolonged litigation with Government. The term of settlement of the four Chanda zamindaris which it had been decided to transfer to Durg District was fixed in conformity at 14 years, to expire at the same time, i. e., 30th June, 1918. The next settlement was affected during the years 1921-24. This was the first settlement at which regular proceedings with a view to raising the tenants' payments as well as *takolis* was undertaken. The main object of the previous settlements had been to raise the pitch of the *takoli* though this in itself brought with it a certain measure of enhancement of rents by the zamindars.

The system of land revenue settlement was prescribed in Resolution No. 46-A-XVI, dated, 15th January, 1926. The practice of soil classification was omitted. The following Table shows the details of holdings at the two settlements.[1]

Statement Showing Details of Holdings

1	At Settlement (1905-18) 2	At Settlement (1921-24) 3
Held by malguzars		
As *Sir* (acres)	52,354	55,206
Other than *sir* (acres)	29,665	18,586
Total (acres)	82,019	73,792
Held by *malik makbuzas*		
Holdings (Nos.)	159	11,732
Area (acres)	7,271	1,80,248

1 Ibid., pp. 72-73.

1	2	3
Held by absolute occupancy tenants		
Holdings (Nos.)	74	103
Area (acres)	2,182	1,990
Held by occupancy tenants		
Holdings (Nos.)	9,395	20,893
Area (acres)	1,54,135	3,39,835
Held by ordinary tenants		
Holdings (Nos.)	9,393	-
Area (acres)	1,33,078	..
Held by service tenants		
Area (acres)	8,330	6,521
Total tenant area (acres)	2,89,395	3,41,825

Agriculturally, the past 20 years had been a period of general prosperity marked by recovery from the disastrous effects of the great famine and steady expansion and consolidation of cultivation and cropping. Since 1902-03 the monsoons had been often favourable. The crest of the wave was reached with the bumper year of 1917-18; thereafter the influenza epidemic of 1918, and the crop failure and scarcities of 1918-19 and 1920-21 caused some setback. Apart from the systematizing of revenue administration, abolition of abuses, and regularization of forest management, the Court of Wards was able in many estates to adopt a definite forward policy.

Due to the increased stability and general progress of the area coupled with the rise in prices, Government sanctioned an enhancement of rents by a percentage varying from 40 in Panabaras, Aundhi and Korcha to 10 in the zamindaris of the north-western plateau tract. Home-farm, usually considerably better than tenanted, land, was valued 15 per cent above that which would have been produced by the tenancy acrage rate.

The miscellaneous or the *siwai* income of the zamindaris was known to have increased due to increase in the demand for timber, sleepers, as well as for lac and other forest produce fully justified the increase and the assessment made heavy allowances for the fluctuations and for the cost of the staff employed in the collection of the income.

In assessing the proportion of this assessment to be paid by the zamindars to Government as *takoli*, the principle of taking a standard fraction of the *kamil-jama* was abandoned and the basis of assessment was the net income left to the zamindar. On this basis, the practical result of the Settlement, the assessment made more leniently than that of the last Settlement. The Table[1] in Appendix 'A' portrays the comparative picture of revised *takolis* and total payments in respect of each zamindari fixed at this Settlement and the preceding one.

1 Ibid., p. 41.

The cost of the Settlement was expected to be recoupable in just over four years. The general period of re-settlement was fixed and announced at 20 years commencing on the 1st July, 1922, and expiring on the 30th June, 1940, but in the zamindaris of Khujji, Dondi Lohara, Ambagarh Chauki, Panabaras, Korcha and Aundhi, where rental revision and announcement could not be completed before the 15th January, 1923, when the first *kist* of rents became due, the old Settlement was extended for a year and the new Settlement came into force on the 1st July 1923, timed to expire after 19 years on the same date as in the other zamindaris.

Tenure relations

The Land Revenue and Tenancy Acts (II of 1917 and I of 1920) brought in a number of material changes in zamindari areas. One of the most important was that introduced by section 108 of the former Act. The zamindari forest *mahals* were no longer recognised, and all forests in the estates became subject to the ordinary malguzari forest rules which had the effect of tightening up control. The most noteworthy changes due to the new Tenancy Act were those brought about by section 95 (2) and 96 which curtailed the long-standing custom whereby trees of spontaneous growth whether inside or outside the holdings were the property of the zamindar and could not be felled unless he gave permission.

Feudatory States

The erstwhile Feudatory States lent another variety to the different systems of land revenue and settlement prevailing in the District. As regards these States there was no complete uniformity and there were differences *inter se*. A State-wise account of the revenue systems is given in the following pages.

Khairagarh State

This State was for long under the suzerainty of the Bhonsla Raja of Nagpur and the system of village management was akin to the one which prevailed in Maratha times in the Central Provinces. According to a note by Chapman[1] the original unit of assessment in Khairagarh was the *nagar* or plough. The *gaontia* held his *sir* land rent-free and was responsible for the payment of *ryoti* rents to the Raja. In addition to his *sir* land, he also held a small area of land rent-free called *sirha* in return for which he was supposed to supply *rasad* to officials visiting the village. The prevailing rate of rent per plough used to vary from Rupees five to Rupees ten in the fertile parts of the State and from annas eight to Rupees two in the less fertile forest tracts. Besides the *Jama*, the *gaontia* of every village used to realise from the tenants and pay to the Raja a number of miscellaneous cesses. The settlements were made for a period of three years. For every 8 or 10 villages, a *budhkar* was appointed whose function it was to estimate the paying capacity of the area. Enhancements were effected by raising the plough-rate, at the instance of the

1 Quoted in Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 123.

pargania, one of the principal *gaontias* in each *pargana*, chosen by the Raja as his agent and a *panchyat* of neighbouring *gaontias*. At every Settlement *gaontia* received a *pagri* from the Raja and in return paid a *nazar* of from Re. one to Rs. five. When the villages changed hands a large sum was paid as *nazarana*. In the third year of each lease the *gaontia* paid the full plough value of his *sir* land for one year. This was known as *patelidand*. In the period between 1872 and 1883 when the State was under direct administration of the Deputy Commissioner due to the incompetence of the then Chief, two summary settlements were made for five years each. Both of the settlements were based simply upon an assessment of ploughs without any reference to the seed-capacity of the fields. The *gaontia's* remuneration was fixed at from 20 to 30 per cent of the village assets. Petty cesses were abolished.

In 1884, the next settlement was carried out for nine years, which was based on a rough calculation of the ryot's holdings in acres. The seed-capacity of each field was worked out and from the seed capacity of each holding, its acreage was roughly arrived at. A seed capacity of 20 *khandhis* was taken as equivalent to the old plough area. About 25 to 30 per cent of the assets was left to the *gaontia* besides his *sirha* land. The rate per plough at this Settlement had risen in the fertile portions from Rs. 15 to 20. The old petty cesses were reckoned and also the *kathena* tax. 'Protected status' was for the first time granted to some *gaontias* at this Settiement. The forest income used to consist of a cess of half-an-anna per rupee of rent levied from all tenants, called *rana*.

The first regular settlement was commenced in 1892. The cultivated area in all the villages was surveyed and the State was divided into seven parganas, the settlement of each *pargana* being enforced as it was completed. The settlement which was finished in 1896 was for 10 years. The procedure followed was that of a settlement in British territory or in other parts of Durg District *khalsa*. All miscellaneous cesses were abolished and in their place a cess amounting to Rs. five on the village *jama* was imposed on the *gaontia* only. A further cess of one anna in the rupee upon the total village rental was also payable on account of patwari, road and school cesses. The *sirha* was merged with his *sir* land. The land held rent-free in return for *rasad* was amalgamated with the *sir* land. The revenue instalments were payable on the 15th January, and 31st May.

The gross land revenue as fixed at the regulr settlement of 1894 was about Rs. 2.07 lakhs, on a rent roll of about Rs. 2.94 lakhs. In 1904-05, a regular settlement was carried out in Khamaria *pargana* for a period of 10 years from 1st June, 1904 to 31st May, 1914 and other *parganas* were summarily settled for four years from 1st June, 1905 to 31st May, 1909. The enhancements had been based on the assets of each village without regard to rates.

The State came under direct management in the beginning of 1909 on account of the death of the ruling Chief in October, 1908. Owing to the change in the system of administration, the revision of this settlement was taken up in 1910. It was effected on 1st June, 1911 in Khairagarh Tahsil, in 1912 in Kholwa. in 1913 in Singarpur and on 1-6-1915 in the tahsils of Dongargarh, Pathri, Lunchhnan and Khamaria for a period of ten years.

The whole State was taken up for revision of settlement from 1st June, 1925. The revised settlement was brought into force from 1st June, 1926, in Khairagarh and Kholwa *parganas* and from 1st June, 1927, in the other *parganas*. for a term of 15 years.

The following Table shows the land revenue as assessed and the State demand of land revenue recoverable, since 1894 to this Settlement.[1]

(In Rupees)

	Kamil-Jama	*Jama* Assigned	Net Revenue Realisable	Cesses	Total Demand for Collection (Land Revenue and Cesses
1894 Settlement	2,07,251	22,170	1,85,081	23,245	2,08.326
Abatement of 1904	2,05,589	19,660	1,85,929	23,099	2,09,028
1911-15 Settlement	2,49,493	21,312	2,28,181	28,118	2,56,299
1-6-26 to 31-5-41	2,50,179	20,382	2,29,797	28,243	2,58,040
As Revised	3,21,513	25,279	2,84,886	36,171	3,21,057
		Concessions	Rs. 11,348		

In the 1925--Settlement, the assessment followed entirely on the lines of the settlement of *malguzari* villages in the Central Provinces. The entire area of the State was cadastrally surveyed. The maps and records were completed.

Together with settlement cesses at five per cent and Patwari cess at 6¼ per cent the realizable revenue amounted to Rs. 3,21,057. The cost of this Settlement was estimated at Rs. 36,000, i.e., equal to only a fraction of 57 per cent of the annual increment brought on the land revenue *kistbandi*. The resettlement of the State was over due when the State ceased to exist as a separate entity.

Kawardha State

The unit of the area was the land which could be kept in cultivation during one season with two buffaloes or four bullocks and the assessment was originally the plough or *nagar* approximately equivalent to 20 acres.[2] There was the custom of periodical redistribution of land among all tenants, the process being known as *banta*. *Budhkars* were employed by the State for the assessment and

1 Khairagarh State Settlement Report, 1925-27, p. 32.

2 Chapman Quoted in Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, pp. 156-161.

collection of land revenue, the charge being 5-10 villages. Ordinarily, the village *jama* consisted of rent collections and the *gaontia's sir* land was free of assessment. The process of settlement thus consisted of assessing the rent and distributing it among the tenants. But there does not appear to have been any permanent *ryoti* tenure. The tenants could be ejected at any time by the *gaontias* in case they refused to accept the rents proposed by them, in consultation with the *budhkar* and a *panchayat*. Till about a hundred years ago, the revision of *jama* (revenue) was entrusted to a *panchayat*. Whenever the possession of a village changed hands, *nazarana* was levied from the new *gaontia*. The *gaontia* was responsible for various cesses to be paid to the Chief. At one time the *khandi* was fornaly introduced into the more fertile portion of the State as the unit of assessment instead of the *nagar*.

The first settlement of the State after it came under British Government management owing to the minority of the ruler came into force in 1888. Prior to this the richer portion of the State had been cadastrally surveyed. The method of settlement was to divide the whole State into territorial groups; assessment was made according to seed-capacity of the land and there was no classification of soils in view of the practice of *banta* already referred to.

A general rate per *khandi* having been fixed in the villages, the general rate per acre was deduced. Since each tenant's holding was already known and recorded in acres, his total rental was easily calculated. *Gaontias* were allowed to retain *sir* land free of rent upto a limit of 20 per cent of the total village area. The system of *nazarana* was abolished. All the old miscellaneous cesses were done away with and replaced by fixed cesses which amounted to two annas in the rupee upon the *jama*.

In forest villages, a rough assessment was made on the basis of the *nagar*; the Baigas were assessed at Rupee one per axe (*tangla*) for the shifting cultivation. The object kept in view at this Settlement as stated by the Commissioner was to avoid introducing sweeping changes. The Settlement was for five years.

The next settlement came into force in 1893 for seven years, i.e., to end in 1900. It was based on a complete classification of soils and was made on the lines of regular settlement in British territory. It gave an all-round enhancement of 21 per cent as Cesses at the former Settlement were included in the *jamas*. A large number of *gaontias* were given 'protected status' and their standard remuneration raised from 20 to 25 per cent of the village assets. The plough system was retained in forest villages where shifting was prevalent.

Due to two severe famines, a summary revision of the settlement, on the existing assets became necessary and was made in 1901 on the expiry of the previous one in 1900. The gross revenue wrs reduced from nearly Rs. 86,000 to Rs. 75,000 owing to the fall in cultivated area. This Settlement was extended in instances upto 1911.

In 1911, a new settlement was made for a period of 10 years. The *khalsa* area of the State was fully surveyed except for some forest villages. There was an increase of 12 per cent in rents to the further drawback of the *gaontias*. The Settlement, was extended upto the end of 1926. The next settlement was taken up in 1927. There was an enhancement of 43 per cent in the case of *khalsa* areas, and in the Rengakhar Zamindari, which showed a considerable drop in the cropped area, there was an enhancement of 53 per cent in the surveyed villages. *Prima facie*, therefore, the Settlement was far from lenient and slump which followed shortly after the impoverished tenantry in deteriorated physical condition.

A similar soil classification was adopted in the surveyed villages as in the *khalsa* area. The term of the Settlement was fixed at ten years except in the forest villages where five years was proposed. However, this Settlement resulted in an enhancement of Rs. 33,472 or about 44 per cent of the previous revenue. The land revenue demand was Rs. 1,09,920 for the year 1929. This was the last Settlement in the erstwhile State.

Nandgaon

The Nandgaon State consisted of four *parganas* which were zamindaris subordinate to the Maratha Rulers of Nagpur. According to a note[1], one of the principal *gaontias* (lessee or headman of the village) was appointed as *pargania* and acted in all matters as the Raja's intermediary with the *gaontias* of his *pargana*. He enjoyed his village on liberal terms. The settlement of the four *parganas* was carried out in rotation, the period of the settlement being three years. The process by which rents were revised was called *chaukasi*. The Raja was represented at these settlement operations by a *panch* consisting of the *pargania*, one or two State officials and the same number of respected *malguzars* of the *pargana*. The *gaontia* whose assessment was to be revised was represented by five neighbouring *malguzars* nominated by him. A list was prepared of the rents actually paid by the ryots. This together with the *ryoti nikasi* (statement of rents) at the previous settlement, was put before the *panch*; a sort of bidding then took place between the two *panchas* and a final decision was then arrived at, enhancing or reducing the *gaontia*'s *jama* as the case might be. When the revision was completed for all the villages of the *pargana*, the *pargania* appeared with all the *gaontias* of his *pargana* before the Raja. *Pattas* and *kabuliats* were given and taken. The ceremony was called *pan-tika* and the actual acceptance of the settlement was called *lahara*.

The *gaontia* enjoyed his *sir* land free of revenue. He also held a *nagar* or land called *sirha* from which to provide *rasad* (supplies of food material, etc.) for the Raja or officials visiting his village. There were various cesses and other levies. The *budhkar* or patwari was remunerated by small cash payments

1 Ibid., pp. 101-05.

and payment in kind levied from the tenants and also by concessions in the price at which he was entitled to purchase grain. As regards forest produce a fee varying in amount, but generally about half an anna was levied per rupee of rent and entitled the payer to all ordinary *nistar*. The State fixed the proportion of *sir* land which a *gaontia* might hold in a village and it was generally one fifth or one sixth according to the size of the village. The ryot or the *gaontia* had the right to apply to the State for redistribution of the *sir* land if either thought that his rights had been infringed by the other. This was called *lakhabatta*.

A regular settlement based on a cadastral survey was completed in 1894 and was in force for a period of seven years. The *gaontias* were granted 25 per cent instead of 20 per cent of the village assets; in case of improvements made by *gaontias* further increase was allowed. By this Settlement, the revenue demand of the State increased by 37 per cent. The Settlement period expired in 1901, but famine of 1900 delayed revision. The 1894—assessment was regarded as somewhat heavy and there was an agitation by *gaontias* and tenants. Lower rates had, therefore, to be fixed and there was a general reduction of the assessment of the cultivators' as well as *gaontias*' lands. The Settlement was conducted according to the procedure laid down for similar operations in the Central Provinces. The village assets included *siwai* or income from grass, hides, *mahua* and other produce. The land revenue of the village was taken as 75 per cent of the assets in most villages. The revised assessment was introduced with effect from 1st January, 1903, the term being fixed at four years. The revenue was lowered by 19 per cent or from Rs. 2.20 lakhs to Rs. 1.82 lakhs. The term of the revised Settlement expired on 31st December, 1906, but due to outbreak of plague at Rajnandgaon in the early part of 1907 and the partial failure of crops in the year, the fresh settlement was delayed.

The revised assessment proposals were sanctioned in early 1909. The Settlement was made on the same principles. As there had not been sufficient time for recovery from the depressing effects of crop-failure the land revenue was not enhanced. This settlement was to remain in force till the end of December, 1917, but the intervention of the World War postponed resettlement operations. They could be taken up only at the close of 1919 and concluded in 1922.

At this Settlement also there was little change in the classification or grouping of villages and *ryoti* rates were applied to the *sir* land of *gaontias* in all but a few villages. The revenue was enhanced by about 20 per cent. The *gaontias* used to levy *nazarana*, when they reallotted surrendered land. Ryots used to sublease their lands in discharge of debt. There was a tax of two annas per *mahua* tree added to the rental of the holdings except in some forest villages. The hide tax was continued at annas 12 per 'plough' (25 acres). The total *siwai* or miscellaneous income amounted to about three

per cent of the total rental. The period of this Settlement was fixed as 12 years, but the term was extended till 1942. The State had been surveyed fully by traverse and cadastral survey.

Chhuikhadan

Chhuikhadan State was the smallest State consisting of four fragments, viz., Chhuikhadan, Bortara, Bidora, and Simai. Formerly, as a zamindari of the Bhonsla Kings, its revenue history as well as soil and crops, were similar to those of the neighbouring erstwhile States of Khairagarh, Kawardha and Nandgaon in the midst of whose territories it was situated. In 1892, a summary settlement and a complete cadastral survey of the State, based upon *khandi*, as the unit of assessment was made. Fifteen to twenty per cent of the village assets was left as remuneration to the *thekedar*. Certain cesses were also levied. The practice of estimating the assets of the village as a whole and then taking a certain proportion of it as land revenue was probably introduced for the first time at this stage.

The cadastral survey and settlement carried out in 1892 was revised during 1897-98 and the village records were attested. But the revised settlement did not become operative owing to the famine of 1900 and a summary settlement on the existing assets was made. Though the term of this Settlement expired on 31st December, 1904, it was extended first upto the close of 1911 as State could not completely recover from the past bad years.

The first regular settlement of the State, came into force from 1st April, 1912, for a period of seven years. A prominent feature of the resettlement was a revision and amplification of the *wajibul-arz*. The demand rose from Rs. 52,597 to Rs. 63,336. The settlement was made on the soil-unit system of the Central Provinces and the *gaontia's* remuneration was fixed as a percentage of the total village assets which included the rental value of all lands and *siwai* income consisting of a tax of two annas per tree on *mahua* trees and income from mango and guava trees. The *siwai* was only about one per cent of the assets, and the percentage of the assets allowed to *gaontias* was between 20 and 40, the majority having about 25-30 per cent.

Survey

Under Maratha administration the demand was more related to the primitive measurement of seed capacity or the work it afforded to the plough. The first settlement to be carried out with maps and records was that of the 'sixties of the last Century in which proprietary rights were granted. With the proclamation of 1854 which involved the conferment of proprietary rights, a survey of the whole country was simultaneously ordered as a preliminary to the settlement enquiries. In Nagpur and Chhattisgarh districts no regular patwari staff existed and the survey had at the outset to be effected by *amins* imported from N.W. Provinces. As a result, the work as a rule was

of a very inferior quality. At the subsequent settlement, complete resurvey and remapping was effected on an improved system. It consisted of two distinct processes:— 1. A preliminary traverse survey conducted by professional agency. and 2. The filling in of field details by the local patwari staff. In the less settled portions of the zamindaris an elaborate survey was not attempted. In some places even the traverse was left undone and in others there was a traverse but no internal survey or only a very rough one.

Present System of Survey and Assessment

The present system of survey is based on traverse survey and survey by cadastral system. According to this system the traverse marks on the lands of each village are fixed by professional traverse survey parties and the details are filled in by the Patwaris after measurements by chains and cross-staff on the basis of the traverse marks. Maps are prepared on the scale 16 inches= one mile $\left(\frac{16}{63,360}\right)$. The system of assessment is on the basis of soil-classification and acreage of the land that the assessment was fixed at the last Settlement and obtains even to-day subject to modifications introduced by Orders and Acts passed by the Government of the day.

Income from Land Revenue

During the year 1947 two Acts, viz., Central Provinces Revision of Land Revenue of Mahals Act and the Central Provinces Revision of Land Revenue of Estates Act, were passed whereby provision was made for enhancing the land revenue of the *mahals* to 75 per cent of the *malguzari* assets and land revenue of the estates (*takoli*) from 50 to 60 per cent of the *malguzari* assets. The financial position of the zamindars was reduced almost to the status of the ordinary malguzars. The actual calculations of the enhanced land revenue were completed in the begining of the winter of 1948. The Central Provinces and Berar Revocation of Land Revenue Exemptions Act, 1948, empowered the Government to recover full land revenue from *mahals* and plots hitherto exempted wholly or partly from its payment. Calculations were made during the rainy season of 1948 and recovery commenced from the first *kist* instalment of 1949. A sizeable increase in land revenue collections occurred due to the operation of the Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, 1951.

Prior to the abolition of proprietary rights in 1951, the responsibility for the payment of land revenue for the whole *mahal* rested on the proprietary body, the *lambardar* collected rents from the tenants of the village and there was no privity between the tenants and the Government. In the new set-up obtaining after the abolition of intermediaries, patels were appointed in villages, first by nomination and later by election, for collecting land revenue and other Government dues on commission basis. In 1965-66, this commission amounted to Rs. 1.92 lakhs. As an experimental measure some Gram Panchayats (43 in 1961-62 and 54 in 1962-63 to 1964-65) have also been entrusted with the

collection of land revenue. Land revenue is deposited in two instalments, the first instalment is payable on 15th January and the second on 15th April. The collection of land revenue during the years 1960-61 to 1964-65 varied from Rs. 23.60 to 27.20 lakhs against the demands of Rs. 28.40 lakhs.

Cesses

Certain cesses have also been levied on land revenue. The Patwari cess was prescribed at the first regular settlement of the eighteen sixties for the maintenance of Patwaries. It was, however. abolished in 1906 when the cost of Patwari establishment was taken over by the Government. Postal cess, Road cess, School cess and Additional rates were also levied.

The position regarding cesses underwent a change in 1920 when under the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act, 1920 (IV of 1920) only one cess at the rate of 6¼ per cent of land revenue for maintenance of schools, roads and for general purposes was levied in the District. Another change took place in 1946 when a Panchayat cess was introduced under the Central Provinces and Berar Panchayat Act, 1946. This cess was payable at the rate of 6 pies per rupee on land revenue and rentals of proprietors and tenants, (other than sub-tenants) respectively, in respect of lands held by them in the Gram Panchayat area and the proceeds were paid to the Gram Panchayat concerned When the District Councils were replaced by Janapada Sabhas in 1948, a Janapada cess was imposed under the Central Provinces and Berar Local Government Act, 1948. This was calculated at 30 pies per rupee and the proceeds were payable to the Janapada Sabha concerned. Under the Panchayat Act of 1960, a cess at the rate of 10 paise per rupee is levied.

Annual demand of cesses during the years (1960-61 to 1964-65) has been varying from Rs. 4.66 to 4.70 lakhs and the collection from Rs. 4.14 to 4.40 lakhs.

Siwai

Siwai or miscellaneous income constituted one of the items of *malguzari* assets and was derived from tanks and forest produce. The *siwai* income was important in the District only in Sanjari Tahsil and there is no jungle in Bemetara and Durg tahsils. The assessment of *siwai* was probably the most difficult of the duties of a Settlement Officer. The *malguzars* denied *in toto* that they made any income at all from this source of revenue and carefully instructed the villagers and contractors not to give even the slightest information which may be of use to the Settlement Officer.[1] The chief items of *siwai* income were (1) *harra*, (2) timber, (3) *mahua*, (4) lac, (5) *bir* grass, and (6) grazing dues. Under this Settlement the total *siwai* assessment was increased from Rs. 21,160 to Rs. 30,184 or by 43 per cent. As regards the *siwai* income from zamindari areas, this income increased from Rs. 52,313 as at previous Settlement to Rs. 1,43,790 at the last Settlement (1921-24).

1 Drug Settlement Report, 1928-32, p. 29.

Relations Between Landlords and Tenants

The *malguzars* were usually small men living in their own villages and where the *malguzar* was resident, there was generally a bond of sympathy between him and his tenantry. Where there had been any collision between *malguzars* and tenants, disputes in most cases occurred over (i) *nistar*, or (b) *begar* or (c) both. The tenants were apt to resent the *malguzars* encroaching upon the village waste or their rights to irrigate their fields from the village tank. Similarly, the abuse of the right to exact *begar* had been frequent and depended not so much upon the terms of *wajib-ul-arz*, as on the status of the *malguzar* and his unscrupulousness. In the Settlement of 1928-32, therefore, non-recognition of this was hailed with joy by tenants.

In the late 'thirties, due to changed political conditions the tenantry became more alive as was evidenced by the growing number of protests against *begar* and infringement of grazing and other *nistar* rights. The tendency of their relations becoming more and more based on contract andless and less on custom was also discernible and could be well-illustrated by the effect of the enactment during 1937-38 of section 88-A of the Central Provinces Tenancy Act penalising *begar* by landlords. This at once led to the curtailment by landlords of privileges and concessions previously enjoyed by tenants and not legally established. Disputes arose regarding the interpretation of the clauses of *wajib-ul-arz* dealing with *nistar* rights and grazing, following a decision by the High Court regarding the tenants' rights in *tendu* leaves and *mahua*, *char* and *tendu* fruit. Government ordered a special enquiry into the matter. Cases of evasion and unpunctuality in the payment of rents by tenants were also reported while disputes about *nistar* came to a head.

The British Policy

The policy of creation of *malguzars* with proprietary rights at the regular 30 years settlement of eighteen sixtees' revolutionized the landholders' customary position and relations with the Government on the one hand, and with the cultivators on the other hand. The vesting in the landholders, *Patel*, revenue farmer or village office holder of full rights of ownership, subject only to the payment of Government revenue demand, put the cultivators holding lands from them into their hands and necessitated the prescription of the right of the ryots in the interests of the latter for it was realised that this new relationship may tend to benefit the new proprietary class at the expense of the cultivators.

The cultivators' payments began to represent rent and not merely the share of the Government revenue apportioned to them. The cultivators' relations with the *malguzar* became those of tenants with landlords. A new distinction between old and new cultivators cropped up. In the absence of a prior adverse right, the old cultivators (*kadim kashtkars*) who had been in uninterrupted possession of their holdings since 1840 were to be

given full proprietary rights with other proprietary privileges in their holdings; this class came to be known as *malik-makbuzas*. A year later, this criterion of uninterrupted possession was fixed at 12 years. As regards non-proprietary *kadim-kashtkar*, it was definitely laid down that he would "remain on the same footing as he occupies at present". Tenants who did not fulfil either of these descriptions were to be "tenants-at-will" and their rents were left to adjust themselves between the landlord and tenants. The landlord could demad as high a rent as he could and eject tenant at the end of the year in case a higher bidder was forthcoming.

In a letter dated 29th April, 1863, Sir Richard Temple proposed to observe the rules and principles prevalent in Saugor Nerbudda Territories regarding settlement in the Nagpur country also, so that uniformity could be established in the whole of the Central Provinces in this respect.

Act X of 1859 was extended to the whole of Central Provinces on the 2nd March, 1864. Section 6 of this Act laid down that every ryot who had cultivated or held land for a period of 12 years had a right of occupancy in that land, a provision which coincided with existing practice prescribed by instructions issued under the Proclamation of 1854.

According to directions issued to Settlement Officer known as Circular 'G' of 1865, it was decided that, "the class of raiyats whose record of occupancy right is only provisional should be narrowed as much as possible", and "the occupancy right of other classes of raiyats were to be recorded as absolute and not as subject to a future change of law". The classes to be recorded as having obsolute right of occupancy fell into six specified categories of ryots.

To carry these orders into effect an undertaking was taken from proprietors in the form of a clause in the *wajib-ul-arz* binding themselves to accept the right secured to absolute occupancy tenants, the records of village customs being used as a substitute for legislation imposing duties and limitations on the newly granted rights to property. The rights recorded briefly were fixity of rent for the period of the current and every succeeding settlement subject only to revision at the time of settlement and a modified right of transfer subject to the proprietors' option of pre-emption.

The need for legislation for regulating the relations of landlords and tenants and for providing a machinery for the assessment and collection of land revenue was being felt increasingly. The concrete manifestation of this need was the Tenancy Act of 1883 which defined the rights and liabilities of the existing classes of tenants. The Act converted the class previously known as tenants-at-will into ordinary tenants with a defined status and gave protection from arbitrary ejectment and added a further class, that of sub-tenants. Impor-

tant questions of the transfer of holdings, enhancement of rents, ejectment of tenants, acquisition of tenant rights and improvements in holdings were dealt with.

The rent of absolute occupancy tenants was to be fixed by the Settlement Officer for the period of settlement while the rent of an occupancy tenant was to be fixed by him and could not thereafter be enhanced for ten years. The rent of an ordinary tenant on the other hand was left to be fixed between him and his landlord, but if he refused to accept an enhancement and the landlord, had recourse to a revenue officer, the increased rent fixed by the latter would not be again raised within seven years. The absolute occupany tenant had the power to transfer his holding subject to the landlords' right of pre-emption while the power of the occupancy tenant to transfer his holding to any person other than one who would be an heir or was a co-sharer was subject to the landlord's consent. By amendments in 1889 the Act was extended to the scheduled districts. A chapter was added dealing with village service tenants, and a modification affecting *sir* land was necessitated by the simultaneous amendment of the Land Revenue Act.

The rise in prices during 'eighties and 'nineties led to great enhancement of the rents of ordinary tenants. This demonstrated the need of a provision in the law empowering the Settlement Officer to fix all rents. This was provided in the Act of 1898 under which the Settlement Officer was empowered to fix rents authoritatively at the settlement. This further strengthened the position of ordinary tenants. Thus, the rents deemed excessive by the Settlement Officer could be reduced by him. As the changes required were numerous, this new Act was passed consolidating and amending the law on the subject. This Act subject to small amendments in the following year and in 1917 remained in force till 1920. Other important features of the new Act were the withdrawal of the power of transfer from occupancy and ordinary tenants, the reservation to proprietors of occupancy rights in *sir* land when they sold their proprietary rights, and the further protection of sub-tenants.

By Act I of 1920 tenancy law was completely re-enacted. It was felt that the status of ordinary tenants had greatly improved and gradually approximated to that of occupancy tenants and, therefore, the class of ordinary tenants was abolished, and all such tenants were converted into occupancy tenants.

Land Revenue Act had earlier been passed in June, 1881. The Act amended in 1889 and 1898 remained in force till 1917, when an entirely new Act came into force. By the Act of 1889, all the zamindaris (previously excluded from the application of this Act) were brought within its purview. The law relating to *sir* or permanent homefarm land was modified and provision was

made for giving lessees of *thekedars* of villages protected status, if they had long possession or had founded or improved them. A procedure was laid down for *ryotwari* settlement of Government land.

Land Revenue Act, 1917, amplified and systematized provisions affecting settlement policy. It prescribed definitely what the record-of-rights prepared at settlement shall consist of. It provided that proposals for resettlement be published and criticism invited. In regard to *wajib-ul-arz* the Settlement Officer was required to record arrangement and decide disputes among shareholders regarding system and management of the village.

Protection of Aboriginals

The Central Provinces Land Alienation Act, II of 1916, applies to only such areas and such castes as are specially notified. It requires that the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner (now Collector) should be obtained to the permanent alienation of land by an aboriginal proprietor to a non-aboriginal. It also imposes certain restrictions on mortgages given by an aboriginal to a non-aboriginal.

Concessions of 1937-40

On the introduction of the Provincial Autonomy (1937-38) the Congress Ministry in 1938-39, undertook a series of measures to protet the tenants. A reduction of 12½ per cent in rents was given to the tenants of small holdings. This was necessary in the face of abnormal fall in prices of foodgrains during the decade. After this, on 17th August, 1938, a committee known as Revenue Committee was appointed for suggesting amendments in the existing Central Provinces Tenancy and Land Revenue Acts on well-considered and comprehensive lines. On the recommendation of this Committee, the Tenancy Act underwent many amendments in 1939-40, under one of which the Government was empowered to declare absolute occupancy tenants and occupancy tenants as *malik-mukbuzas* on payment to the landlord of an amount equal to 10 and 12½ times the rent, respectively, of the holding. By another amendment subtenants of *malik-makbuzas* and tenants were also recorded as occupancy tenants, if the lands were habitually sub-let. Further, if *sir* or *khud-kasht* lands were leased as one holding on or after the 1st November, 1939, the lessee could acquire the same right in *sir* land as he would in *khud-kasht* land and the *sir* right in such land was extinguished.

Post—Independence Period Reforms

The four states, Kawardha, Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan and Nandgaon merged with the Central Provinces in 1948. It was found that diverse systems of land tenure were prevalent in them. The tillers of the soil in those territories had very little rights and the tenants could be ejected at the sweet will of the landlord from their land. The system of rack-renting prevailed to a great extent in these parts. There was restriction on inheritance and transfer of land

under the terms of the *wajib-ul-arz*. The tenants had no right in the usufruct or timber of trees in their holdings. In 1949, the State Government enacted the Central Provinces Land Tenure Order under which all persons holding land directly from the Government were declared as 'ryots' and all other persons holding land from the land holders were declared as tenants of such lands. The tenants were given fixity of tenure and it was provided that they could be ejected only for specific reasons. In order to improve the lot of cultivating classes and liberalise the rights of tenants in these areas, they were given rights in the same year on the lines of occupancy tenants in the Central Provinces. The position of service holdings was also regulated on the lines of service holdings in the Central Provinces and in case service was no longer required, the persons holding the land could be declared tenants of the holding. Under the Madhya Pradesh Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act 1950, any person holding land from a proprietor on favourable terms for service rendered by him was declared a ryot of the land, and the proprietor was declared ryot of the land under his personal cultivation. Subsequent to the passage of the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code 1954, the process of tenancy reforms merged in the general stream of developments in the State.

The most important among the reforms was the abolition of intermediaries between the State and the actual tiller of the soil. The Madhya Pradesh Agricultural Raiyats and Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, 1950 (XVIII of 1950) was enacted for facilitating the abolition of proprietary rights for the protection of tenants from ejectment, etc. Under this Act the rights of plot-proprietorship (*malik-makbuza*) could be conferred upon tenants on payment of a prescribed premium.

Abolition of Proprietary Rights

The Madhya Pradesh Abolition of Proprietary Rights (Estates, Mahals, Alienated Lands) Act, 1950 (I of 1951), came into force on the 31st March, 1951 It abolished all proprietary rights in estates and mahals, which now vested in the State. Naturally therefore, there was considerable increase in the Government income under land revenue. Besides, the *siwai* income which had so long swelled the coffers of the intermediaries accured to the State Government. The home-farm lands owned by exproprietors were assessed to land revenue. All the *bila-lagan* lands and the lands given out by ex-proprietors on favourable terms were made liable to the payment of land revenue to the State. Tanks and groves left with the ex-proprietors also came under assessment. Lands being diverted to non-agricultural purposes became liable to re-assessment according to enhanced rate. The proprietors were, however, allowed to retain their home-farm lands in *malik-makbuza* rights. For the loss of proprietary rights, the proprietors were entitled to a compensation in accordance with prescribed scales. Further, petty proprietors were entitled to a rehabilitation grant. A special department called the Land Reforms Department was constituted in the State for implementing the main provisions of the Act.

The Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, 1950, besides abolishing the *malguzari* system, also gave greater security and additional rights to the tenants. The tenants were given facilities to acquire plotproprietary rights in the lands held by them on payment of a nominal premium. A *bhumidhari* had the option to acquire *bhumiswami* rights by paying three times the land revenue to the State Government. Moreover, an occupancy tenant of a *bhumiswami* and a *bhumidhari* could acquire ownership right on payment of premium at 10 and 7 times the rent, respectively.

Consequent on the abolition of the proprietary rights, the tenants were given free rights of transfer of land. Restrictions over the enjoyment of *nistar* rights and grazing in the village forests were removed and concessions of free picking of *mahua* flowers and taking of a limited quantity of timber for the repairs of houses and agricultural implements of the cultivators were further extended.

The abolition of the *malguzari* system was followed by the simplification of land tenures. The Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1954 (II of 1955) was enacted and brought into force from 1st October, 1955. It brought the various types of land holders under two categories (i) *bhumiswami* and (ii) *bhumidhari*. The Code made all *malik-makbuzas* and absolute occupancy tenants as *bhumiswami*. The rights of a *bhumiswami* or *bhumidhari* were heritable and transferable.

The Unified Code

The position of land tenures and tenancy reforms again came up for review in 1956 after the new State of Madhya Pradesh was constituted, resulting in the enactment of the Unified Land Revenue Code, 1959 (No. XX of 1959). The Unified Code came into force from 2nd October, 1959. The Code incorporates almost all the important features of land reforms in regard to uniformity of tenures, protection of tenants against arbitrary ejectment, rack-renting and conferring rights of *bhumiswamis* on them. It provides for only one class of tenure-holders of lands for agricultural purposes from the State, to be known as *bhumiswami*. A *bhumiswami* has rights of transfer subject only to one restriction, that such transfer does not either create a holding above a prescribed limit or an uneconomic holding below 10 acres. Subject to certain restrictions, in respect of cutting of certain species of trees, he has full rights over all kinds of trees in the holdings. A *bhumiswami* has also a right to mortgage his land both by simple or usufructuary mortgage subject, however, to certain restrictions. No mortgage shall be valid unless at least five acres of irrigated or ten acres of unirrigated land is left with the mortgage or free from any encumbrance or charge.

All persons holding land from *bhumiswamis* as lessees, sub-tenants or *shikmis* on the date of coming into force of the Code have been termed as occupancy tenants. An occupancy tenant can be conferred *bhumiswami* rights

subject, however, to the right of resumption of the original *bhumiswami* in certain cases for personal cultivation, on his paying 15 times the land revenue in five equal instalments. To protect the existing occupancy tenants of *bhumiswamis* from being rack-rented, it has been laid down that the maximum rent payable by an occupancy tenant shall not exceed four-times the land revenue in the case of irrigated land, three times the land revenue in the case of land under *bandhas* and two times the land revenue in other cases. No sub-letting or leasing of land is now permitted except in very emergent cases and only by certain types of disabled persons, once in three years. If a *bhumiswami* leases out his land unauthorisedly, his lessee shall become an occupancy tenant thereof and the rights of *bhumiswami* shall accrue to him in due course.

BHOODAN MOVEMENT

Acharya Vinoba Bhave initiated the land gift movement in 1951 to solve the problems of landless labourers. This movement is named as Bhoodan Movement. This movement has been extremely helpful in creating a healthy and congenial atmosphere which has its impact on this District also as elsewhere in the country. In former Madhya Pradesh, a legislation, known as the Madhya Pradesh Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1953 was enacted to facilitate the activities in connection with Bhoodan Yagna Movement. It was followed by the establishment of the Madhya Pradesh Bhoodan Yagna Board with headquarters at Nagpur which became responsible for the administration of land received under Bhoodan Movement. The Board has been empowered to constitute Tahsil Committees which distribute the land to landless persons capable of cultivating them personally. After the reorganisation of States, such a Board is functioning for Mahakoshal region with its headquarters at Narsimhapur. The Bhoodan Board receives annual grant from the Government. Upto the year 1965-66 land measuring 12,192.48 acres was received from 7,812 donors in Durg District as *Bhoodan*, out of which 10,313.36 acres were distributed among 2,513 landless persons.

Consolidation of Holdings

The evil of small and scattered division of agricultural holdings has comparatively been more serious in the rice tract of Chhattisgarh. The genesis of the *malaise* can be traced back to the obsolete practice of *lakhabatta*, which was devised to equalise the holdings of land by a periodical redistribution of fields in the villages in order to ensure that each cultivator got his share of different kinds of land. The result was that the holding of one cultivator in that area was distributed all over the village in small plots of land. This kind of extreme fragmentation prevented the economic development of cultivation or any substantial improvement to the land.

The need to remedy the evil effect of fragmentation prompted the adoption of consolidation measures. The consolidation of holdings through official

agency did not commence earlier than 1905, when the Commissioner of Chhattisgarh Division attempted to solve the problem with the assistance of the Settlement Officers in areas where settlement was in progress. Some stray private efforts were also made earlier in this direction, mostly in the home-farm lands of *malguzars*, but it was alleged that they were deviously motivated. It was then desirable to consolidate a few villages in an experimental way. In 1907, operations were discontinued, but again to be resumed officially in 1926. It was only in 1928 that the measure acquired a legal shape in the form of the Central Provinces Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1928. Under the Act certain measures were taken which reduced the chances of obstructive tactics on the part of unreasonable minority. Soon after the Act came into force, the progress of corsolidation has been rapid. The operations were closed in 1945. They were, however, started again and were expanded in subsequent years.

For the implementation of the Act, a special staff headed by a Consolidation Officer of a gazetted rank was appointed. The scheme was neither compulsory under the Central Provinces Consolidation of Holdings Act, nor under the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1959, which now governs the consolidation of holdings. There has been some opposition to the scheme from the cultivators, who are generally reluctant to part with their ancestral lands. For these reasons the progress of the scheme has been tardy, as is evident from the Table given in the appendix 'A'.

Rural Wages and Condition of Agricultural Labour

The following account of agricultural wages is available in Blen Kinsop's Settlement Report of Durg Tahsil (1903)[1]. "According to the census figures, the number of permanent labourers or *sonjias* has been greatly reduced and this agrees with the statements of malguzars and tenants. The *sonjia* gets one-fourth of the produce and a present of a blanket every third year. This shows the easy terms on which cultivation is carried on in this District. The *sonjia* is allowed to speak his mind to his employer and to have his say in cultivation. Thus, he prefers the coarser kinds of rice as giving him a larger food-supply; if the employer wants to substitute the better sorts so as to get a better price, he has to propitiate the *sonjia* with a cloth and other presents.

"In 1903 the wages of ordinary labour had fallen in response to the recent bad years by about 25 per cent. Women's wages were generally about 25 per cent less than men's. Men's wages were from two to three *chauthias* of unhusked rice or roughly 2 to 3 lbs. of husked rice per day. Women's wages were 1½ to 2 lbs. of husked rice. Wages for reaping were generally a quarter less than for weeding, but previously the reapers had been allowed to gather the fallen grain (*silu*), whereas they were now deprived of that privilege. Women employed to husk

1 Quoted in Drug District Gazetteer, p. 101.

rice formerly received two *kathas* of coarse paddy or *kodon* for husking one *khandi* of twenty *kathas* or at the rate of 10 per cent. They were also allowed to keep the *kanki* or residue of broken grain unfit for sale. But in 1903 husking was done by the tenant's own household, or, if by an outsider, it was done for the *kanki* alone".

As regards the position of village servants, the old Gazetteer of Durg District reports that the Kotwar formerly got 10 *kathas* (65 lbs.) of husked rice per plough of land. The Lohar or blacksmith was on the same footing, but in some villages his remuneration was at a higher rate. The Rawat or herdsman got from 10 to 40 *kathas* (65 to 260 lbs.) of unhusked rice per four-bullock plough with one day's milk in three of cows and one day's milk in five of milch buffaloes, together with the droppings of the animals while grazing. The Baiga who might serve several villages was paid according to his efficiency and the credulity of the people, usually 12 to 32 lbs. of unhusked rice per plough. The Dhobi was paid in cash according to his services.

The cash wages of labour in the interior parts of the District then, were stated to be as small as six to eight pice for a man and five to six pice for a woman for weeding the crops. Similar rates were paid at harvesting. In Durg town the wages of a man were three annas a day and of a woman two annas. An indoor servant, such as a Rawat was given from Rupees three to Rupees four a month for brining water, cleanning the cooking pots and washing his master's clothes after he has bathed.

P. S. Rau states[1] that in an agricultural community where the vast bulk of wages bill was paid in kind, wages were slow to rise with the fluctuations in prices. The time-honoured rates of one *lambari katha* per man and one small *katha* (3 seers) per woman still held the field. However, higher wages were also occassionally demanded by the labourers specially at harvest time. The usual cash wages for casual labour were three annas per man and two annas per woman during harvest time and two-and-half annas per man and two annas per woman at other times. Round about Durg, however, four annas to five annas a day were easily demanded. In the interior a servant (*kamia*) could be obtained for about Rs. 75 a year.

There is a general tendency for people in rural areas to shift from villages to towns in search of employment in industrial and mining concerns. Though even in late 'twenties paucity of agricultural labour was felt due to migration of labouring classes to the coal fields of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, but this tendency has been specially noticeable during the years following the Second World War. This is due partly to more remunerative employment available in cities and partly to the attractions and amenities of city life. Pressure on land due to increase in rural population also acts as a strong push factor.

1 Drug District Settlement Report, 1928-32.

Dearth of agricultural labour at the time of agricultural operations requiring a large number of labourers, for transplanting, sowing, weeding, harvesting, etc., is a normal phenomenon. The dearth is felt most at the time of transplantation which operation is to be accomplished at a great speed during a short period, particularly in areas where subsidiary non-agricultural industries have come into existence, like Bhilai Steel Plant area and associated limestone and iron ore mines in the District. Competition from non-agricultural works, e. g., roads, railways and canals in the District, has also been partly responsible for labour shortage.

According to the Census of 1961, cultivating labourers in the District were 2,05,271 or about 19 per cent of the total number of workers. The problem of agricultural labourers is part of a wider problem of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas, but it has been held in check and somewhat mitigated with the implementation of Five Year Plans. Their condition has been improved with the checks over labour exploitation and by fixing minimum wages in different scheduled employments.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE--CENTRAL & STATE

Important items of Central revenues are Union Excise Duties, Income Tax and Estate Duty. Some particulars about these revenues, so far as they concern Durg District are given in the following paragraphs.

Union Excise Duty and Income Tax

The main excisable commodities in the District are tobacco, vegetable non-essential oils, cotton fabrics, package tea, electric fans, electric motors, china-wares, etc.

For purposes of assessment, levy and collection of Income Tax, Durg District has been divided into two circles, viz., Durg Circle and Rajnandgaon Circle. Durg Circle has further been split up into two wards called A ward and B ward each under the control of an Income Tax Officer.

They have also been entrusted with the assessment and collection of three more taxes, viz., Wealth Tax, Gift Tax and Expenditure Tax.

State Excise

In the first decade of this century the excise system prevailing in the District was the Sadar Distillery and outstill system. The revenue derived under the outstill system was from fees charged on licence permiting the rights of manufacturing as well as for sale at the outstill and shops. The number of combined stills and shops on 1st October, 1907, was 270. Revenue from country liquor, opium and *ganja* in the year 1908-09 was Rs. 25,193, Rs. 76,176 (Rs. 20,835 from the fees and Rs. 55,341 from sale proceeds) and Rs. 11,314 (Rs. 5,385 from the fees and Rs. 5,929 from duty), respectively.

The Collector is vested with statutory powers under Excise Act. For the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act, the District has been divided into 12 circles where a team of 20 Excise Sub-Inspectors has been posted.

Selas Tax

This Tax was introdoced in the District on 1st June, 1947, under the Central Provinces and Berar Sales Tax Act, 1947 (XXI of 1947) which has since been replaced by the Madhya Pradesh General Sales Tax Act 1958 (II of 1959). The latter Act was brought into force from the 1st April, 1959. The Central Sales Tax has also been introduced in the District from 1st July, 1957, under the Central Sales Tax Act of 1956. The Sales Tax Office, Rajnandgaon exercises jurisdiction over Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Balod and Kawardha Tahsils while the Sales Tax Officer, Durg is in charge of the other two Tahsils. With a view to facilitating the recovery of Sales Tax arrears the Sales Tax Officers have been vested with the powers of Additional Tahsildar, since 1962.

The increase in Sales Tax receipts from 1959-60 onward is due to the introduction of first point taxation.

Forests

Forest revenue is mainly obtained from the following sources,

(i) Departmental sales of timber and fuel,

(ii) Auction of marked coupes consisting of timber and fuel trees,

(iii) Sale of minor forest produce,

and (iv) Recovery of compensation and fees for licences.

Taxes on Motor Vehicles

The income under this head is derived from the periodical fees of registration of motor vehicles, issue of licences to drivers, conductors, etc.

Registration

The income under this head is derived from registration fee, copying fee, etc., which are levied under the Indian Registration Act. The number of documents registered during three years—1906, 1907 and 1908 was 487, 633 and 790 and receipts amounted to Rs. 3,116, Rs. 3,463; and Rs. 4,270, respectively. The documents registered numbered 2,456 in 1920 and receipts aggregated to Rs. 12,146. In 1950, they were 12,454 and Rs. 95,589, respectively. In 1964-65, the same were recorded as 32,078 and Rs. 2.68 lakhs.

Stamps

The income under this head is from the sale of stamps of various denominations both judicial and non-judicial. The receipts under this head were

Rs. 30,792 in the year 1906-07 and Rs. 36,712 in the year 1907-08. They increased to Rs. 84,045 in 1920-21, Rs. 84,833 in 1930-31, Rs. 75,870 in 1940-41, and Rs. 1,37,506 in 1944-45.

The Table in Appendix 'A' shows the amount received under the various heads of revenue. Relevant figures of 1907-08 put in juxtaposition to 1969-70 show the phenomenal growth that has taken place in revenue receipts.

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

When this area was under the Marathas, there were no regularly constituted courts of justice for the trial of petty criminal offences. The *Kamavisdars* and *patels* were the authorities administering Civil Justice. Mohammedan law was administered to Muslims and the Hindu law to the Hindus. In the punishment of criminals too, certain general rules were usually adhered to, unless particular reasons occasioned a departure from them.

In each village there was a mahajan, or arbitrator, chosen by the patels and *raiyats* jointly. So far as possible the mahajan settled all disputes between the *patels*, and amongst the *raiyats*. Panchayats decided all kinds of civil cases. The most common subjects of litigation were succession to property, *boundaries*, trespasses of cattle, advances by *patels* and *sahukars*, non-performance of contracts, etc.

Civil Judiciary under the British

With the incorporation of Raipur District (Including Durg tahsil) in the Central Provinces in 1861, the former Civil Judicial establishments underwent a change. The Punjab Code was prescribed as a Manual for general guidance. Under the new system of Judiciary, Courts of the Deputy Commissioner and his assistants, i.e. Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner were established at the district headquarters and the courts of tahsildars at tahsil headquarters. Next higher to the Court of Deputy Commissioner was the court of Divisional Commissioner, Raipur and the Court of Judicial Commissioner of Nagpur. The Table in Appendix summarises the powers of different Civil Courts according to Act XIV of 1865.

In 1863-64 certain courts were exclusively set apart for Civil Justice and consequently the Court of the Assistant Commissioner at headquarters was earmarked for civil work.[1] The posts of Naib-Tahsildars were created in 1870 with Civil Judicial powers. These courts constituted the lowest civil courts of the Province. In 1884-85 reorganisation of the judicial set up was taken up. This resulted in establishment of new civil courts in places where there was work enough to occupy a Civil Judge. These courts were called the courts of Munsiff's and more Assistant and Extra- Assistant Commissioners

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1 C. P. Administration Report, 1863-64, p. 30.

were vested with Civil Powers and appellate jurisdiction to relieve the Deputy Commissioner.

Princely States

The four princely states (Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, Kawardha, Nandgaon) merged into the District in 1948) had a different Judicial set-up, though the administration was conducted on the British pattern. Khairagarh State was administered by the Raja under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner of Raipur District since 1870-71. In this State an official was posted for the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice. In 1877-78 the Chief's eldest son was entrusted with the management of state on behalf of the Government with the help of a pensioned tahsildar as Diwan and the Diwan's brother was appointed as Honorary Magistrate. At Khairagarh there were two courts presided over by the Diwan and Naib Diwan with powers of a District Judge and Subordinate Judge, respectively while the Tahsildars of Dongargarh and Khamaria also exercised the usual judicial powers. Subsequently, in 1909, the Diwan was replaced by a Superintendent who also functioned as District and Sessions Judge.

The estates of Kawardha, Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan were under the direct administration of the British Government due to the minority of the Ruling Chiefs. The general pattern of Judicial administration in these states was the same as obtaining in Khairagarh. Later, by the Central Provinces Courts Act 1924, the designations for Subordinate Judges and Munsiffs were changed to Subordinate Judge, First Class and Second Class, respectively.

In 1936 the Court of the Judicial Commissioner was replaced by a chartered High Court with a seat at Nagpur. In 1945 the designation of Subordinate Judges was changed into Civil Judges. In 1956 the seat of the High Court was shifted to Jabalpur. Before the re-organisation of States in 1956, there were different Acts which regulated the working of the courts in the respective constituent units. In order to introduce uniformity in the procedure Madhya Pradesh Civil Courts Act of 1958 was implemented in 1959 and it regulates the working of present Courts.

Administration of Criminal Justice

The birth of a systematic administration of criminal justice coincided with the formation of the Central Provinces in 1861 and the introduction of civil justice. In 1862 the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act XXV of 1861) was introduced throughout the Central Provinces. The then Durg tahsil having then been a part of Raipur District, the Deputy Commissioner of Raipur was the District Magistrate for Durg also. He was assisted by Subordinate Magistrates who were Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners at the headquarters and Tahsildars at the tahsil headquarters. The Divisional Commissioner of Chhattisgarh, at Raipur, exercised the powers of a Sessions Judge. Above all these

courts was the court of the Judicial Commissioner at Nagpur which was the highest appellate court with the powers of a High Court.

As in Civil Judiciary, here also the Tahsildars and Naib-Tahisldars were classified into two grades. The Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners exercised powers of a subordinate Magistrate of the First or Second Class. The Appellate Sessions Court of the Divisional Commissioner, Raipur, tried heinous offenders committed to that Court by the magisterial Courts. In the trial of Sessions cases he was assisted by two Assessors. The Court of the Judicial Commissioner was the highest appellate court for Criminal Judiciary in which appeals from the court of sessions were heard. The Criminal Judiciary was further extended to interior places with the appointment of local prominent men as Honorary Magistrates in subsequent years. All these Magistrates enjoyed Third Class Magisterial powers. However, the Courts of Honorary magistrates were abolished in 1938, except in Special cases. In the princely states of Khairagarh, Nandgaon, Kawardha and Chhuikhadan 'the spirit of British Laws and Acts' were followed.

Consequent on the division of the Central Provinces into nine Civil Districts on 14th May, 1917, each under a District and Sessions Judge, Durg was placed under the District and Sessions Judge with headquarters at Raipur. The Deputy Commissioner, as District Magistrate, continued to exercise supervision of all magisterial courts. All original criminal work except cases committed to the Court of Sessions was to be disposed of by the Magistrates.

INCIDENCE OF CRIMES

There has been a considerable increase in the number of all crimes save those of an organized nature. The rise in population caused by the new township at Bhilai, the enforcement of various new laws and the general awareness of public in reporting all offences are important factors that contribute to this increase. The crimes of more common occurrence in the District are thefts, burglaries, riots and other petty offences. The average annual number of offences of all types for the six years, 1960-65 stood at 4,573. The following table shows the number and frequency of various crimes which occurred in the District during the period from 1966 to 1970.

Year	Dacoity	Robbery	Murder	Riot	Burglary	Cattle thefts	Ordinary thefts	Kidnapping	Miscellaneous IPS crimes	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1966	4	18	61	61	1,391	136	2,658	27	1,298	5,644
1967	7	20	63	60	1,640	163	3,152	17	1,194	6,316
1968	4	15	51	48	1,151	162	2,966	27	1,255	5,699
1969	8	22	63	58	980	138	2,143	16	1,149	4,577
1970	4	10	56	66	860	94	1,659	16	1,033	3,798

Dacoity

The highest number of dacoity cases recorded in recent years was in 1969. This was 4 in the years, 1966, 1968 and 1970. There are no local gangs committing this crime. The stray casees of petty dacoities registered are committed by external criminals from adjacent areas.

Robbery

Robbery of a very serious type is not of common occurance. In this case also the offences reported can be attributed to gangs and professional criminals from outside the District. The highest number of robbery cases registered during the decade 1961-70 was 22 in 1969. The years 1961 and 1970 recorded only 13 and 10 cases, respectively.

Murder

The highest number of murders recorded during the period under review was 63 in 1967 and 1969. During the other years it varied from 37 in 1961 to 56 in 1970.

Riot

Starting with 117 in 1960 this branch of crimes declined to 66 in 1970. This can perhaps be attributed to the efficiency of the Police.

Burglary

Burglary is of frequent incidence. With occasional fluctuation it varied between 860 in 1970 and 1640 in 1967.

Cattle-Theft

The crime situation due to cattle-thefts is not very serious. Compared to other years these crimes registered the highest number in 1967, i.e. 163 Cattle-thefts are committed in an organised manner. Herds of cattle are diverted from other grazing fields to far-off marketing places and sold off.

The following table shows the crime situation in the District during the year 1961 and 1966 to 1970.

Year	No. of Cases reported	No. of cases sent up for trial	No. of persons tried	No. of persons acquitted or discharged	No. of persons convicted
1961	4,241	2,323	4,852	455	2,277
1966	5,654	3,109	4,241	771	3,470
1967	6,316	3,318	4,701	879	3,822
1968	5,679	3,124	4,676	762	3,914
1969	4,577	2,452	4,401	988	3,413
1970	3,798	1,880	2,538	992	1,546

The Table shows a marked improvement in the crime situation in Durg District on the one hand, the lesser number of cases were reported in subsequent years than in 1960 and on the other hand the number of cases sent up for trial decreased from 2,323 in 1961 to 1,880 in 1970.

The following Table shows the number of cases of all classes involving property and the recovery effected thereof for the year 1961 and from 1966 to 1970.

Year	No. of cases of property stolen	No. of cases of property recovered	Total value of property stolen (Rs)	Total value of property recovered (Rs)	Average value per case (Rs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1961	1,845	1548	2,62,306	72,619	142
1966	3,752	2,459	6 51,181	2,51.448	174
1967	4,663	3,079	8,04,228	3,08,450	172
1968	4,181	2,736	7,87,561	3,78,816	188
1969	3,159	1,772	9,61,216	3,71,162	304
1970	2,546	1,331	7,91,744	3,06,552	310

It may be observed that the highest number of offences of stolen property were in the year 1967 when 4,663 offences were reported, followed by 4,181 cases in 1968 and 3,752 cases in 1966. The highest amount of stolen property was Rs. 9,61,216 in 1969 and Rs. 8,04,228 in 1967 as against Rs. 2,62,306 in 1961. Considering the recovery, it is seen that the highest recovery was in the year 1968, Rs. 3,78,816 followed by Rs. 3,71,162 in 1969 and Rs. 3,08,450 in 1967.

Offences Under Special Laws

Apart from crime already discussed, there are certain offences against the special and local laws such as, Excise Act, Gambling Act and Prohibition Act. The following statistics present the offences under these laws.

Year	Excise Act		Gambling Act		Prohibition Act	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1961	358	411	351	1,903	616	655
1966	143	129	370	2,305	812	1,003
1967	179	193	1,078	5,468	392	457
1968	387	391	3,526	5,788	—	—
1969	392	412	2,982	4,782	—	—
1970	318	361	1,494	4,986	—	—

The Table above shows that under the Excise Act, there has been a fluctuation both as regards the number of cases and the number of persons involved. In 1970, 318 cases involving 361 persons were reported as against 392 cases involving 412 persons in 1969 and 387 cases involving 391 persons in 1968. Under the Prohibition Act, the highest cases numbering 812 involving 1003 persons were recorded in the year 1966.

ORGANISATION OF THE POLICE FORCE

In 1861, after the formation of the Central Provinces, the Police force in the District was reorganised under an Inspector-General of Police assisted by two Deputy Inspectors General. In 1864 the posts of Deputy Inspectors-General were abolished and a new Cadre of District Superintendent of Police was created at the helm of the District Police. Assistant Superintendents were also posted to some important districts, whenever such appointments were fully justified. Besides District Superintendent of Police, the District Police consisted of Inspectors, other subordinate officers and Constables. Durg was constituted into an independent District. This District now occupies an important position, mainly as a result of the establishment of a steel plant at Bhilai, about nine miles from Durg. With the merger of neighbouring States of Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan Kawardha and Rajnandgaon, the number of police stations increased from 19 to 34. The strength and cost of civil Police has been showing a rising trend in the District. In the year 1956, the total strength was 865 and the total expenditure was Rs. 10,33,791 which increased to 1,365 persons and Rs. 33,49,650 in 1970.

The following Table shows the details regarding the sanctioned strength and cost of civil police for 1956, and 1961 and from 1966 to 1970.

Year	Number	Total Cost (In Rs.)
1	2	3
1956	865	10,33,791
1961	1,199	12.95,750
1966	1.425	27,31,338
1967	1,368	29.10,483
1968	1,365	30,42,912
1969	1,365	33,16,120
1970	1,365	33,49,650

The Senior Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police have their headquarters at Durg. One of the Deputy Superintendents of Police acts as the Sub-Divisional Officer and looks after the work of Police Officials of Rajnandgaon Sub-Division and the

other of Kawardha Sub-Division. The area of Rajnandgaon Sub-Division extends to two tahsils, i.e., Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh and has Police Stations under it. Similarly Kawardha Sub-Division comprises two tahsils i.e. Kawardha and Bemetra with 11 Police Stations. The work of Police Stations of each of six tahsils of the District is supervised by a Circle Inspector posted at each of the tahsil Headquarters.

The industrial township of Bhilai has been provided with three full fledged police stations, namely Old Bhilai, Bhilai Nagar and Bhilai Bhatti. There is a Superintendent of Police for Bhilai under whom there is a City Superintendent of Police and two Inspectors to supervise the work of these Police stations. Besides this, the District has been provided with Special Armed Force Battalion No. 11, since 1st December, 1961.

In the District, there are two Reserve Police Lines, one at Durg and the other at Rajnandgaon, being looked after by one Reserve Inspector and one Subedar, respectively.

The prosecution branch of the District police force is headed by one District Police Prosecutor who is assisted by two Assitant Police Prosecutors and six Assistant Police Sub-Prosecutors. Of the latter two are posted at Headquarters and one each at Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Bemetara and Balod. The prosecution branch works under the direct supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police.

Police Training School

There is a Police Training School at Rajnandgaon started in March, 1960, The staff of the School consists of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, an Inspector, 8 Sub-Inspectors, 11 Head Constables, 12 Constables, 1 Head clerk and an Accountant. This school is directly under the control of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Raipur. The school imparts different courses of training for recruit constables, Head-Constables, and Assistant Sub-Inspectors. For the time being, training is also imparted at the school to the newly recruited Assistant Police Prosecutors.

Home Guards.

The scheme of Home Guards was started in the District, in the year 1947. The Company Commandant, Home Guards is the Head of office in the District. In addition eight posts of Instructors are sanctioned in the District with their headquarters at Durg, Rajnandgaon and Bemetara. The trainning of urban Home Guards is ordinarily arranged every year. The number till 1970 was 135 *Adhinayaks* and 549 *Sainiks*. The Home Guards are required to perform duty during the emergencies for maintenance of law and order.

JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

The District Jail at Durg is under the supervision of Civil Surgeon, who is the *ex-officio* Superintendent of the Jail while Sub-Jails are being looked after by the Assistant Jailors. The magisterial lock-ups are supervised by the respective Tahsildars. The working of the jails is controlled by the Inspector-General of Prisons, with headquarters at Bhopal.

Prison Discipline

There is a strict watch over the activities of persons confined in the jails. Prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment are engaged in different working of trades. Long term prisoners are given temporary release for 10 days besides glanting remissions under the Good Conduct Rules. Prisoners of exemplary conduct become eligible to receive concessions like visit from friends, exemption from fetters, good conduct badge and promotion to some prison office, money gratuities, remission of sentence and present of tools, etc., on release. Convicts whose term exceeds six months but not life sentence are eligible for all the rewards whereas life term prisoners are entitled on only for the first four. Extra labour, along with good conduct fetched remission of sentence.

Welfare of Prisoners

At Rajnandgaon-Prisoners are being taught only to read and write. At Khairagarh there is a post of teacher where Primary education is given to the prisoners. Some religious and moral instructions are given to prisoners by the Reformist Preacher. There is a small library in this fail, where from Books and Hindi news-paper are given to prisoners. The prisiners are allowed to play games like Volley Ball, Carrem Board and Indian games as *Kabaddi*.

Vocational Training

Khairagarh sub-Jail has an industry of *Niwar* weaving. At Durg prisoners are engaged in different trades.

Treatment of Special-Classes of Prisoners.

There are two classes of prisoners termed as A and B. Prisoners are allotted classes in view of their social life, education and status. Juvenile dilinquents are not mixed up with habitual criminals. Similarly Political prisoners are given more facilities.

Deserving prisoners are given facilities to pursue their studies further. They are provided with sports articles, books, etc., The jails are governed by the Madhya Pradesh Jail Manual, which contains provisions regarding the establishment and management of Jails, confinements and treatment of prisoners and maintenance of discipline, etc. The table below shows the details regarding the number of prisoners during the last few years.

Year	Prisoners at the beginning of the year			Received during the year			Total			Remaining at the end of the year		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	M.	F.	T.	Males	Females-	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1957	96	5	101	402	10	511	588	24	612	57	5	62
1961	99	2	101	1,025	24	1,040	1,124	26	1,150	130	—	139

ORGANISATION OF COURTS

In has been observed earlier that Civil Judiciary was separated, from the Executive at the dawn of the present century. Criminal Judiciary, however, continued to be one with the Executive, an arrangement that obtained till the 2nd October, 1969 in this District. From that date all the Civil and Criminal cases are also tried in the same court at different levels.

The Civil District of Durg is headed by the District and Sessions Judge with headquarters at Rajnandgaon. Below him there are three Additional District and Sessions Judges in the District, one of them being posted at Rajnandgaon and two at Durg. In addition, there are two Civil Judges, Class I and Additional District Magistrates (judicial), and seven Civil Judges, Class II and Magistrates, Class I. One Civil Judge, Class I and a Civil Judge, Class II are posted at Rajnandgaon whereas one Civil Judge, Class I and two Civil Judges, Class II are posted at Durg. The Civil Courts at Bemetara, Kawardha, Khairagarh and Balod are presided by a Civil Judge, Class II each. The Sessions cases, Criminal appeals, criminal revisions and Miscellaneous Criminal Proceedings in any part of the District are tried only in the court of the District and Sessions Judge, and may be transferred by him to the courts of the Additional District and Sessions Judges. The District and Sessions Judge hears original suits valued at Rs. 50,000 or above. The cases of more than Rs. 10,000 are heard by the Additional District and Sessions Judge Rajnandgaon, for the tahsils of Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh. The tahsils of Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh. are covered by the second Additional District and Sessions Judge, Rajnandgaon. The remaining four tahsils, in this respect are covered by Courts of the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge, Durg. This division of jurisdiction also holds good between the two Civil Judges, class I, posted at Rajnandgaon and Durg and who have the powers to hear civil suits of the value between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. The cases below Rs. 5,000 arising in their respective jurisdictions i.e., tahsils are heard by the Civil Judges, class II.

Criminal

Criminal Judiciary continued to be looked after by the Executive Magist-

rates upto 2nd October, 1969, except for appellate work. The Magistracy of the District is headed by the District Magistrate (Collector) assisted by other Magistrates of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class. Some of the senior Revenue Officers were vested with exclusively magisterial powers for criminal work and were known as Judge Magistrates prior to the separation of Judiciary. District Magistrate is assisted by two Additional District Magistrates. The Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars also enjoy I, II or III Class magisterial powers. All magisterial Courts are inspected, supervised and controlled by the District Magistrate and Sessions Judge.

For the prevention of crime and maintenance of Law and Order, the Sub-Divisional Magistrates posted at the headquarters of Sub-Division are primarily responsible. They enjoy 1st Class magisterial powers. There are in all 33 Magisterial Courts in the District as under :—

S. No.	Class of Magistrates	Name of Court/Location	No. of Courts
1	First Class	District Magistrate, Durg	1
2	First Class	Additional District Magistrate, Durg	2
3	,, ,,	Sub-Divisional Magistrate (at tahsil head-quarters)	6
4	,, ,,	Other Magistrates (at Bemetara and Rajnandgaon)	2
5	,, ,,	Judge Magistrates (2 at Durg and 1 at Rajnandgaon)	3
			14
1	Second Class	Court located at Durg (4) Khairagarh (2), Kawardha (2) and one each at Rajnandgaon, Chhuikhadan, Balod, Bemetara and Dongargarh	13
1	Third Class	2 Courts located at Durg and one each at Kawardha, Rajnandgaon, Balod and Bemetara	6
		Grand Total	33

In addition, the Courts of the Sessions Judge and Additional Sessions Judge at Rajnandgaon, and the Courts of First and Second Additional Sessions Judges at Durg are the appellate criminal courts. The court of District and Sessions Judge has also power to transfer criminal cases from one court to another in the Sessions division within the jurisdiction and to try cases under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1952, as specified by the State Government, as a Special Judge. The three Additional Sessions Judges enjoy the powers as delegated to them from time to time.

Nyaya Panchayats

The Nyaya Panchayats, started functioning in the District since Independence. Nominated members from the various Grampanchayats in the District have been constituted, in accordance with the provisions of the C. P. and Berar Panchayats Act 1946 (I of 1947). In the District there are as many as 78 Nyaya Panchayats. With the establishment of the Nyaya Panchayat Courts the sphere of civil and criminal Judiciary was extended to the very interior of the District. Nyaya Panchayats were functioning at places shown in appendix.

The Nyaya Panchayats exercise civil powers upto a limit of Rs. 100. On the criminal side they can try cases under certain sections of the Indian Penal Code and can impose a fine upto Rs. 50. No legal practitioner can appear in the Nyaya Panchayat. The decision of Nyaya Panchayats is not appealable. Applications for revision can be filed with the Civil Judge, Class I, Rajnandgaon.

NATURE OF CASES HANDLED BY COURTS

The various criminal courts in the District handled cases relating to offences under the Indian Penal Code, Special and Local Laws, and under the Criminal Procedure Code, while the Civil Courts tried suits for money and movable property, title and other suits.

Criminal

In 1960, in all 3062 offences were reported under the Indian Penal Code, 258 under the Criminal Procedure Code and 10,460 offences under Special and Local Laws making a total of 13,780. As against this in 1961 there were in all 19,043 offences in 1962 the number of offences was 18,978 which increased to 24,657 in 1963 and declined slightly to 23,641 in 1964. The year 1965 recorded only 17,229 offences comparatively a samaller number. So also the magistrates disposed of 13,290 cases in 1960 involving 22,426 persons in 1961, 16,038 cases involving 31,269 persons which increased to 20,385 cases involving 30,571 persons the following year. The number again increased to 25,024 cases involving 41,571 persons in 1963, 20,235 cases involving 30,046 persons in 1964 and 20,292 cases involving 28,060 persons in 1965. It will be seen that the total number of offences which showed an increase in 1961 to 1963, decreased in the subsequent years.

Similarly offences defined in Chapter XVI of the Indian Penal Code, i.e. offences against human body also showed a fluctuation in their number. In 1960 the number of offences of this nature recorded was 356, declining to 208 in 1961, rising to 325 in 1962, further rising to 463 in 1963, reaching the highest figure 533 in 1964, and then falling to 322 in 1965. The table in Appendix A shows details regarding the nature and namber of cases disposed in the District.

The following Table shows the number of original and appeallate cases disposed of by the Court of Sessions:—

Year	Original		Appellate	
	Regular	Miscellaneous	Regular	Miscellaneous
1961	69	24	351	91
1966	218	25	275	88
1967	230	30	279	75
1968	238	43	226	73
1969	207	16	268	102

The number of suits disposed of by various courts in the District were as under:—

Year	District Court	Subordinate Civil Courts	Courts of Small Causes
1961	38	1,180	1,161
1966	70	1,280	877
1967	64	1,331	588
1968	49	1,097	858
1969	57	1,853	942

The total number of suits for money and movable property during the period from 1961 to 1969 is tabulated below:—

Category of Suits	Year	No. of offences reported
1. Money and movable property	1961	1,940
	1966	1,444
	1967	1,256
	1968	1,463
	1969	1,331
2 Title and other Suits	1961	446
	1966	534
	1967	577
	1968	639
	1969	650

The details of number of original and appellate cases decided are given below.

Year	No. of Original and Appellate Cases decided			
	Original		Appellate	
	Regular	Miscellaneous	Regular	Miscellaneous
1961	2,129	710	292	63
1966	2,227	540	138	112
1967	1,983	442	272	64
1968	2,004	273	347	65
1969	2,352	406	264	64

The revision (civil and criminal) cases of Nyaya Panchayats in the District for 1963 and from 1966 to 1969 are given below:—

Year	At the beginning		During the year		Total	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
1961	19	23	27	56	46	79
1966	32	46	19	34	51	80
1967	36	59	10	13	46	72
1968	25	44	16	13	41	57
1969	22	18	36	40	58	58

LEGAL PROFESSION AND BAR ASSOCIATIONS

In the beginning there were no law graduates and the legal practice was then carried on by some unlicensed and even uneducated persons. In 1863-64, the Judicial Commissioner of the Central Provinces issued orders which required the persons desirous of practicing law should pass a prescribed examination. Accordingly, a Board of Examiners was constituted which issued certificates to the successful candidates. This eliminated the element of unlicensed and uneducated pleaders, but failed to attract persons of merit and ability to the legal profession for a long time. The Pleaders Act of 1865 was extended to the Central Provinces in 1879. In the same year, the Legal Practitioners Act (No. XVIII of 1879) was passed. Examinations then began to be held under this new Act. From 1881-82, even uncertified Mukhtyars and petition-writers were excluded from the precincts of the court under new rules. There are seven Bar Associations functioning at Durg, Balod, Kawardha, Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Dongargarh and Bemetara.

District Bar Association, Rajnandgaon

As the District Judge of Durg District has his headquarters at Rajnandgaon,

the Bar Association of this place is named as District Bar Association. It was established with three lawyers, in 1918. The membership was 29 in the year 1964. It has its own constitution and the office-bearers are elected each year according to its provisions. The Executive Committee of the Association consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and five members. The Association has its own library. The admission to the Association as member is limited to those who are enrolled either as pleader or advocate and who have their place of business at Rajnandgaon.

Bar-Association, Sanjari-Balod

The Bar Association at Sanjari-Balod was formed in the year 1934 with initial strength of only one advocate. In the year 1964 there were only five members and it had no written constitution. This Bar Association is working as a branch of the District Bar Association, Durg.

Kawardha Bar Association

This Bar Association was established during the princely regime of Kawardha State in or about the year 1940 and its strength was only 4 advocates in 1964. It has also no written constitution of its own.

Bar Association, Durg

This Association was established in the year 1904 with initial membership of five pleaders. In the year 1964, its strength was 51 members. According to the by-laws of the association, the election of its office bearers is held every year and the senior most member of the Bar is elected as President. Every person who has enrolled himself as an advocate in any State in India may become its member after paying enrotment fee of Rs. 15 and montly subscription of Rs. 2/- only.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Agriculture

From May, 1965 the activities of the Department in the District have been entrusted to the charge of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Durg. Earlier the Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture was looking after this work. The Deputy Director of Agriculture. Durg, is under the immediate control of the Joint Director of Agriculture, with headquarters at Raipur.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture is mainly responsible for the implementation of the various agricultural schemes launched in the District. He is assisted by two Assistant Directors of Agriculture, one at Durg and the other at Rajnandgaon. In the field-work he is assisted by six Agriculture Assistants who are in charge of Seed, Marketing, Information, Vegetable, Irrigation, etc. The work carried out by the department pertains to (i) Minor irrigation, (ii) Soil conservation, (iii) Distribution of organic manure, (iv) Distribution of fertilizer, (v) Construction of seed stores, (vi) Japanese method of paddy cultivation, (vii) Horticulture development, (viii) Vegetable, etc.

There are five Government agricultural farms in the District, being looked after by the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Rajnandgaon, with the help of four Farm Superintendents.

Veterinary

The District Livestock Officer is in charge of the activities of the department. His office was established in Durg District on the 6th of November, 1956. The office is under the immediate administrative control of the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services, Raipur. The Livestock Officer is assisted by 15 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, 6 Veterinary Extension Officers, 3 Stock Supervisors and 75 Stockmen. Mostly Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Extension Officers are in charge of Blocks and veterinary dispensaries. The Stock Supervisors and Stockmen are either attached to these offices or are in charge of the outlying Veterinary Dispensaries. They are responsible for the villages within the radius of five miles from their headquarters. The staff posted at Block headquarters are responsible for organising the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry activities and controlling the diseases in their respective jurisdictions.

In addition there is one Mobile Unit to control the outbreak of diseases

and to provide veterinary aid in the District. The Mobile Unit also attends the cattle markets to control epidemics.

During the period 1961-62 to 1965-66 the Department treated about 6 lakh cases, castrated 2.5 lakh bulls, administered 7.6 lakh vaccinations and introduced 400 breeding bulls and 394 chaff-cutters. It also supplied 14,000 chickens, 6,000 cockrels and 645 BYP. Over 75 per cent of the vaccinations were administered in the year 1961-62 and the activity was required to be stopped subsequently. However, 1963-64 was an year of intense activity of the Department for treatment of diseases, castration, BYP, introduction of breeding bulls, chaff-cutters and cockrels in the area.

Forest Department

There are two Forest Divisions having territorial jurisdiction in the District, one is known as South Durg Division, Durg, and the other as North Durg Division, Rajnandgaon. The Divisional Forest Officers are in charge of the Divisions, and each one is responsible for protection, exploitation, regeneration, and maintenance of forests under his control. Each Divisional Forest Officer is assisted by two Assistant Conservators of Forest and the usual subordinate staff.

The North Durg Division is divided into six Ranges, viz., Khairagarh, Dongargarh, Taregaon, Kawardha, Rangakhar and Gandai. The South Durg Division is also divided into seven Ranges, viz., Balod, Dondi-Lohara, Kusumkasa, Manpur, Panabaras, Chhuria and Chowki. The Ranges are in the charge of Forest Rangers, also called Range Forest officers. All subordinate staff (executive) is posted at various places in or near the forest under the Forest Rangers.

The Ranges are divided into Range Assistant Circles, which are sub-divided into Forest Guard Beats.

Within the forest area of North Forest Division, the slopes of Maikal range and the foot-hill country face the problem of soil-erosion which affects the flora and agriculture on the one hand, and poses a threat of silting up of the Hirakud dam on the Mahanadi, on the other. To carry out the measures to check soil erosion in this area, a functionary Forest Division (Soil Conservation) has been created with headquarters at Khairagarh. The Divisional Forest Officer is assisted by a team of office and executive staff in his work.

Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Rajnandgaon

In order to demonstrate improved methods of pisciculture and help pisciculturists in procuring quality fish-seed in Durg District an office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries has been established at Rajnandgaon in the year 1958-59. The Assistant Director is under the immediate control of the Deputy Director of Fisheries, Raipur and Bilaspur Divisions, Raipur who in his turn is under the control of the Director of Fisheries, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Assistant Director of Fisheries is assisted by 6 Assistant Fishery Officers, 12 Fishery Inspectors, two Fishery Extension Assistants, two Field Assistants, 14 Jamadars and usual staff. Among the schemes undertaken, mention could be made of the scheme regarding Fisheries Extension in Community Development Block, Balod (Pilot Project Scheme). Since 1961-62 the Department is successfully carrying out extensive pisciculture, especially in private sector through Gram Panchayats, Fishermen Co-operative Societies, etc. The increasing demand of fish-seed by the private pisciculturists of Balod Block went up from 36,000 fry in 1961-62 to 1.55 lakh in the year 1965-66.

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department is bifurcated into two separate branches, at the State level, viz., (i) Roads and Buildings and (ii) Irrigation.

Roads and Buildings

The Roads and Buildings branch is placed in charge of the Executive Engineer, whose jurisdiction extends over the whole of Durg District. This office is functioning since 1955 and is subordinate to the Superintending Engineer, Raipur Circle, (B&R), Raipur.

For the purposes of construction and maintenance of Buildings and Roads in the District, the Executive Engineer is assisted by five Sub-Divisional Officers, two of whom are placed at Durg, and one each at Rajnandgaon, Kawardha and Balod. In addition, there is the subordinate executive staff and usual technical office staff assisting the Engineers.

During 1961-62 to 1965-66, the office incurred an expenditure of Rs. 2,25,08,148 on construction and maintenance of buildings and roads.

Irrigation

The irrigation works in the District fall under the jurisdiction of two Irrigation Circles, viz., Kharkhara Project Circle, Durg and Wainganga Circle, Balaghat.

The Kharkhara Project Circle was opened on 13 February, 1964, for works to supply water to the Bhilai Steel Plant, under the additional charge of the Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi Circle, Raipur. He was holding the additional charge of the Circle till 26 June, 1964.

Since 26 June 1964 the Circle is in the charge of the Superintending Engineer, Kharkhara Project Circle, Durg. Originally, it was a charge of construction, but as the scheme was to be linked with Tandula-Gondli System, the works of the Tandula Division were transferred to this Circle with effect from 1st November, 1964. Thus, the jurisdiction of this Circle spread over four Tahsils of Durg District, viz., Durg, Rajnandgaon, Bemetara, and Balod. The remaining two tahsils, viz., Kawardha and Khairagarh are under Wainganga Circle,

Balaghat. In addition, the survey of Satiara Project in Dhamtari Tahsil of Raipur District is also looked after by this Circle.

The Kharkhara Project Circle is under the administrative control of the Chief Engineer, P. W. D. (Irrigation), Bhopal. But as a special case, the Deputy Chief Engineer (I) at Raipur has been vested with the powers of the Chief Engineer, as far as Kharkhara Project is concerned.

There are 5 Divisions working under the Circle. They are :—

(a) Kharkhara Head Works Division No. I, with headquarters at the Dam site which has three Sub-Divisions all located at the Dam site.

(b) Kharkhara Canal Division No. I, with headquarters at Sambalpur which has four Sub-Divisions, all located at Sambalpur (Durg District).

(c) Kharkhara Canal Division No. II, with headquarters at Balod, has three Sub-Divisions. The headquarters of two Sub-Divisions are at Balod while that of the third is at Dudhli.

(d) Tandula Division with headquarters at Durg, has five Sub-Divisions. The headquarters of three Sub-Divisions are at Durg, one at Admabad and one at Rajnandgaon.

(e) Satiara Project Survey Division, with headquarters at Raipur, has three Sub-Divisions. The Sub-Divisions are located at Raipur, Balodgahan and Dhamtari.

Each of the Divisions is in charge of an Executive Engineer and each Sub-Division is in charge of an Assistant Engineer. The Superintending Engineer is assisted in his work by 5 Executive Engineers, 21 Assistant Engineers, 1 Canal Deputy Collector, 125 Junior Engineers and a number of Overseers, Sub-Overseers, Irrigation-Inspectors and usual staff.

The Tandula Division requires a specific mention here.

Tandula Division with headquarters at Durg is a permanent Division which is in existence since 1908. Irrigation activities, including the construction of tanks and canals and renovation of irrigation potential in the four tahsils, namely, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Bemetara and Balod are handled by this Division. As already stated, the Division is headed by an Executive Engineer, who is assisted in the work by 5 Assistant Engineers, 1 Canal Deputy Collector, 36 Junior Engineers and a number of Overseers, Sub-Overseers and usual subordinate staff.

During the Third Plan period (1st April 1961, to 31st March, 1966) its irrigation potential was raised by 5,579 acres. Total irrigated area in this Division was about 2 lakh acres, of which Tandula Canal System alone accounts for 1,66,000 acres. Collection of revenue from all irrigated area is handled by the Division itself.

Surhi Irrigation Division, Chhuikhadan (Wainganga Circle)

Headed by an Executive Engineer, the Surhi Irrigation Division, Chhuikhadan, is another Division for irrigation purposes in the District. It was established in the year 1954. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 Junior Engineers, 20 Overseers, 4 Sub-Overseers and usual subordinate staff. The jurisdiction of this Division extends over Khairagarh and Kawardha tahsils of the District wherein 4 Assistant Engineers are in charge of a Sub-Division each, with headquarters at Khairagarh, Dongargarh, Chhuikhadan and Kawardha, respectively. The Executive Engineer is under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Durg.

The area under irrigation in the Division has risen from 8,374 acres in 1961-62 to 26,666 acres in 1965-66 and 46,426 acres in 69-70.

Electrical and Mechanical Division, Kharkhara Project

The Electrical and Mechanical Division, Kharkhara Project of the Public Works Department (Irrigation), is headed by an Executive Engineer (Electrical and Mechanical). This Divisional Office is located at the Dam site and functions under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department with headquarters at Raipur. Of the four Sub-Divisions working under this Division two are located at the Dam site, the E/M Store Sub-Division is located at village Sambalpur (of Durg District) and Sub-Division No. 4 is located at Balod. Each Sub-Division is in the charge of an Assistant Engineer, designated as Sub-Divisional Officer.

Industries Department

The District Industries Office was established in the year 1959 in the charge of an Assistant Director of Industries. From May, 1965 the same has been merged with the office of the Deputy Director of Industries-Cum-Project Officer, Rural Industries Project, Bhilai (Durg). The Rural Industries Project for Durg was sanctioned by the Government of India with a view to taking up intensive development of industries in rural areas of the District. Initially four Development Blocks, viz., Dhamdha, Patan, Gunderdehi and Durg have been selected for implementation of the Project. The Deputy Director of Industries is subordinate to the Additional Director of Industries, Zonal Industries Office, Bhilai House, Durg. The office of the Additional Director of Industries was also created with effect from 1st May, 1965, and its jurisdiction extends to Raipur and Bilaspur Revenue Divisions. The Additional Director of Industries looks after all matters pertaining to small-scale industries, except the policy matters. The Additional Director in his day-to-day work, is assisted by one Assistant Director of Industries, two Inspectors of Industries and usual subordinate staff. The Inspectors verify the utilisation of Government loans granted and also of controlled and imported commodities allotted to various industries. The Deputy Director of Industries-Cum-Project Officer, Rural Industries Project (Bhilai),

Durg, is responsible for the development of Industries in his jurisdiction which extends over Durg and Bastar districts. In his efforts to organise industrial activities and to provide financial assistance and other basic facilities to the parties for industrial development in the District, he is assisted by two Assistant Directors of Industries, and three Inspectors of Industries.

During the years 1961-62 to 1965-66, the office advanced a loan of Rs. 11.2 lakhs under the Industries schemes of Khadi and Village Industries Board and Rs. 4.5 lakhs under the State Aid to Industries Act and supplied machines worth Rs. 47.4 lakhs on hire-purchase basis. The Industrial Estates were created at Durg, Bhilai and Rajnandgaon. Rural Work Shops were also established at Balod and Dongargarh. It registered 280 Units of Small-Scale Industries and organised 74 Industrial Co-operative Societies. During the same period the Department granted power-subsidies to 62 Industrial Units to the tune of Rs. 55,729 and allotted controlled commodities, including cement, pig-rion, iron and steel, copper, zinc, tin and lead, costing about Rs. 63.5 lakhs.

Co-operation

The work of the Co-operative Department in the District is in the charge of an Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who works under the administrative control of a Deputy Registrar with his temporary headquarters at Raipur. The Assistant Registrar is assisted by an additional Assistant Registrar, 2 Senior Co-operative Inspectors, 2 Co-operative Inspectors, 2 Marketing Inspectors, 35 Sub-Inspectors, 40 Sub-Auditors and the subordinate staff. The main function of the department is to promote co-operation activities and to undertake registration, amalgamation, audit, inspection and liquidation of co-operative societies.

There are 6 marketing, 19 better-farming, 20 large size, 583 service, 584 small-size, 26 non-agriculture credit, 14 joint-farming, 16 multipurpose, and 16 weavers societies in the District. Beside these, there is a Co-operative Bank functioning in the District.

Weights and Measures

The offices of the Inspectors of Weights and Measures were established with a view to introducing Metric weights and measures in the District. There are three separate offices of the Inspectors, Weights and Measures in the District with headquarters at Durg, Rajnandgaon and Bemetara, respectively. The jurisdiction of the Inspector of Durg is Durg Tahsil, that of Rajnandgaon is Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh and Balod tahsils and that of Bemetara is Bemetara and Kawardha tahsils. Administratively, these offices are under the control of the Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures, Raipur, who in his turn is subordinate to the Controller, Weights and Measures, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

In Durg, complete enforcement of Metric Weights and Measures has been

made in the establishments dealing on commercial basis which include *Kirana*, vegetables, grains, cloth, etc.

Panchayat and Social Welfare

The District Panchayats and Welfare Officer is a technical assistant to the Collector for the implementation of schemes in respect of Panchayats, Social Education and Social Welfare launched by the Department of Panchayats and Social Welfare in the District. He is assisted in this behalf by District-Auditors, usual office and technical staff of the Mobile Cinema Unit and a Radio Mechanic for repairs and maintenance of radio-sets, supplied to the panchayats.

At Block level, he is assisted by 14 Sub-Auditors posted at various Block headquarters and 24 Extension Officers. In each of the 24 Blocks, there is one Extension Officer, designated as Panchayat and Social Education Organiser looking after the activities of the village panchayats. Besides, there are 6 Lady Social Education Organisers presently attached to the Distict Office to look after the women and children welfare programmes. Of the village panchayats, 84 have been provided each with a Gram-Sahayak, working as its Secretary. There is also a *kalapathak* consisting of 7 *Kalakars* to give cultural programmes in the rural areas. There is a Social Welfare Institution to look after healthy children of leprosy patients and a Superintendent is in charge of this Home.

Tribal and Harijan Welfare Department

For welfare of Tribals and Harijans in the District, the office of the District Organiser, Tribal and Harijan Welfare, is functioning since 1948. Administratively, this office is controlled by the Director, Tribal and Harijan Welfare Department, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. In his work the District Organiser is assisted by one Area Organiser, nine Circle Organisers and one Investigater-Cum-Circle Organiser. There is a Presiding Officer, Debt Relief Court and four Principals of Higher Secondary Schools with usual staff for the Tribal and Harijan Welfare in the District.

Divisional Employment Exchange

An Employment Exchange, which is functioning at Durg since 1 December, 1955, exercises jurisdiction over the entire District.

Economics and Statistics

The District Statistical Office, Durg, was established alongwith some other District Statistical Offices in the State in March, 1957. The office is headed by a District Statistical Officer, who is assisted by one Statistical Assistant, and other subordinate staff. It is controlled by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The office collects statistical data from various departments, undertakes on the spot investigation for collection of data, and maintains a record of progress of the Five Year Plans. It also undertakes the

preparation of economic reports of the District, compilation of statistical abstract, monthly reviews, annual progress reports of the Five Year Plans, etc.

Information and Publicity

The District Publicity Office is manned by a District Publicity Officer, 2 Assistants, one Project Operator, and a Driver. The District Publicity Officer is responsible to the Director, Information and Publicity, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The main function of the office is to give wide publicity to Five Year Plans by various media, viz., publicity, literature. booklets, pamphlets, exhibition of documentary films, etc. There is an Information Bureau attached to this office which maintains useful information about the District and the State.

Sales Tax

Prior to 1st October, 1960, there was only one Sales Tax Office located at Rajnandgaon with a Sales Tax Officer as head of the office. Subsequently, due to establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant a new Sales Tax office started functioning at Durg. The Sales Tax Circle, Rajnandgaon, comprises four tahsils of Durg District, namely, Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh, Balod and Kawardha. The office is headed by a Sales Tax Officer. To enforce the Sales Tax laws and rules, the Sales Tax Officer is assisted by three Sales Tax Officers, seven Sales Tax Inspectors and usual staff.

The Sales Tax Officer, Durg Circle, Durg is assisted by two Assistant Sales Tax Officers, four Sales Tax Inspectors and usual staff. His jurisdiction extends over the remaining two tahsils, viz., Durg and Bemetara.

In order to recover the old Sales Tax arrears, the Sales Tax Officers have been vested with the powers of Additional Tahsildar under the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, since 1962.

Both these offices are under the immediate control of the Regional Assistant Commissioner of Sales Tax, Raipur, and Deputy Commissioner of Sales Tax, Jabalpur, who in their turn are controlled by the Sales Tax Commissioner, Mahdya Pradesh, Indore.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

There have existed from times immemorial, small village communes looking after the management of the village as a unit. Communes also performed judicial functions of a limited nature. Every village had its headman or patel who acted as the guide, agent and leader of the village. By the Maratha revenue system. under which the village community was jointly responsible for the whole revenue and all details of assessment were left to the villagers themselves, the people were forced to act together under their headman, and to arrange their own affairs.

But the coming of the British, in this region, centralised executive and judicial powers in the hands of the government officials. The deliberate introduction of landlordism and the *ryotwari* system as against the *Mauzawari* or village tenure system, dealt almost a death blow to the corporate life of the village communities.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Lord Mayo's Resolution of 1870 which advised financial decentralisation and enlistment of popular co-operation in work of administration resulted in the enactment of Central Provinces Municipal Act of 1873. It introduced elective principles, division of municipal wards and voting rights to all tax-payers. Municipal elections were held every three years. In places where indirect taxes existed, all self-earning male householders were declared as voters.

Octroi was the principal source of revenue and it was devoted, first to provide for police and then for construction and conservancy of public streets, roads, drains, tanks and water-sources.[1] After 1883, the management of schools situated within the municipal limits was also transferred to the municipal committees.

Further changes in the municipal administration were made in 1883 to implement Lord Ripon's Resolution advocating extension of local self government. In the same year, the Chief Commissioner directed the abolition of system of *ex-officio* members.[2] The minimum strength of nominated members was not to exceed one-third of the total sanctioned strength of the committee and the members were empowered to elect the President and Vice-

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1 C. P. Administration Report, 1877-78, p. XXIX.
2 Ibid, 1883-84 pp. 23-24.

President from among themselves. The Municipal Act of 1889 gave a statutory recognition to Lord Ripon's Resolution.

The first municipal committee in the District was established at Rajnandgaon in 1889. This was followed by establishment of a municipal committee at Dongargarh and later at Khairagarh in 1900. The Municipal Act of 1903 incorporated Lord Elgin's Resolutions of 1896 and 1897. This Act very clearly defined the powers of the municipal committees and introduced the system of retirement of members by rotations. In 1906, Durg town was made a Notified Area.

However, the old system of elections was again revived in 1915-16 on the recommendations of the Decentralisation Commission in order to provide substantial elected majority in local bodies, election of non-official Chairman in municipalities and wider powers in financial matters. The aforesaid changes were further stressed by the Mont-Ford report and Government of India Resolution of 1918. Durg Notified Area Committee was upgraded into a Municipal Committee in 1918.

By the Central Provinces Municipal Act of 1922, the right to exercise franchise was conferred on all persons with their monthly income of Rs. 10/- or more. The Act also prescribed the abolition of official control and reduction in number of nominated members of municipal committees.

The fifth municipal committee was constituted in 1936 in Kawardha town. Besides a Notified Area Committee was also supervised by a Revenue Officer in Piparia town of Kawardha State. In 1937, the Town Area Committee of Chhuikhadan town was upgraded into a Municipality. The four amendments in the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1939 could not be implemented owing to the resignation of the Congress Ministry in 1939. In 1942 a Municipal Committee was established at Dongargarh under the Central Provinces Municipalities Act of 1922.

Post-Independence Period

When the popular government resumed the reigns of office in 1946, a comprehensive amending Act, the Central Provinces and Berar, Municipalities (Amendment) Act of 1947 was passed. It embodied the recommendations of the Local Self-Government Enquiry Committee 1935. The Act empowered the President, to exercise all the executive powers for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act. In 1958, the old system was revived and the President and Vice-President began to be elected by the councillors. Earlier, the Urban Local Self-Government Committee was appointed in 1957 to study the problem and bring uniformity. Its recommendations were embodied in the Madhya Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1961.

The following Table would give an idea of the changes in Civic population and the Jurisdiction of the six Municipalities of the District in the years 1951 and 1961, together with provisional 1971 population figures :—

Name of Municipality	1951		1961		1971
	Population	Area in Sq. Km.	Population	Area in Sq. Km.	Population (Provisional)
1. Durg	20,249	5.18	47,114	20.10	70,776[1]
2. Rajnandgaon	23,300	15.54	44,678	12.67	55,782
3. Dongargarh	12,596	5.18	14,119	6.14	18,170
4. Kawardha	11,642	2.59	10,117	4.01	11,327
5. Khairagarh	5.524	2.59	6,576	2.51	7,901
6. Chhuikhadan	3,143	2 59	3,488	2.77	4,024

Financial Resources

From the beginning of present Century financial resources of the municipalities included, octroi, taxes on houses and lands, taxes on profession and trades, water-rate, conservancy and vehicle tax, rates and fees from markets, cattlepounds and slaughter-houses. The table in Appendix A gives an idea regarding the income and expenditure of all the Municipalities in the District. A brief description of each of the municipalities in the District is given below :

1. Municipal Committee, Durg

Durg Municipality was constituted in 1918, under Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act of 1903. Prior to this the town had a Notified Area Committee. The Notified Area Committee consisted of six nominated members with the Civil Surgeon as the President and an Extra Assistant Commissioner as the Secretary. In the year 1908 the number of nominated members was increased to seven. When established the area comprised 6.5 sq. km. including the villages of Durg, Kasaridih, Titirdih and Sikoda Bhata. On the 4th February 1954 the boundaries were extended comprising the villages of Nawapara and Sikoda. The area of the Municipality was again extended to 20.10 sq. km. in 1961. The Municipal area has been divided into27 wards. The constitution of the Durg Municipality from 1921-22 to 1968-69 is shown below :

Year	Population	Number of Members				
		Ex-officio	Elected	Nominated	Selected	Total
1921-22	11 274	1	5	3	..	9
1940 41	..	..	12	..	6	18
1954-55	20,249	..	20	.	4	24
1965-66	47,114	..	27	..	7	34
1966-67	49 ,00	1	27	..	6	34

1 The provisional population figure includes the population of Durg Urban Outgrowth.

The Committee was reconstituted in 1925-26 under C. P. and Berar Municipal Act of 1922 and was composed of selected, elected and nominated members. The Committee usually elected from its own members or from other persons eligible for membership, a President and two Vice-Presidents.

The Municipality performs its main, compulsory and optional duties through various Sub-Committees such as, Finance, Education, Public Works, Nazul, Public Health, *Aushdhalaya*, Water Works, *Akhada*, Selection and Attendance Authority Sub-Committees.

The street lights which were introduced in 1951 have now covered all parts of the town. A water-works was constructed in 1952 for supplying pure drinking water. Public Health and Sanitation of the town has improved considerably with the construction of drains and roads. A colony with necessary amenities has been provided to the Harijans and the construction of another colony is being taken up. The Municipal Committee is managing a Bal Mandir, 19 primary schools and a Higher Secondary School.

2. Dongargarh Municipality

Dongargarh Municipality was perhaps in existence prior to 1900[1]. In 1941 the Municipal Committee was reconstituted. The Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1922, was applied to the Municipality with effect from 20th June, 1948, later on substituted by the Municipality Act, 1961. Under the Act of 1961 this Municipality has been classified as a Class III Municipality. In 1965-66 the Committee was composed of 17 members, out of whom 13 were elected and 3 selected. The Municipal area was divided into 13 wards. The town was electrified with effect from 1st Aug. 1957, and 368 electric lights were fitted in the streets of the town.

3. Chhuikhadan Municipality

It was established during the Princely regime in 1937 under the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1922. The committee had the initial strength of 10 members all of whom were nominated by the Durbar. In 1946 the element of election was introduced. In 1953 there were 7 elected and 4 selected members.

4. Rajnandgaon Municipality

The Municipal Council was originally constituted in the year 1883 and finally reconstituted on 1st January, 1948 under the provisions of para (4) of the Central Provinces States (Application of Laws) order, 1948. Since then the committee is governed under the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1922 (II of 1922) and later on the council was reorganised in March, 1950. In 1921 the total membership of the council was 18 out of which 6 were

1 Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, p. 129.

nominated and there were 4 wards. In 1958 the number of wards increased to 22 and the memership to 30, out of which 23 were elected and 7 selected.

5. Municipal Committee, Khairagarh

The Khairagarh Municipality was constituted in 1900. Previously, only sanitation was looked after by the municipality in the town and octroi was levied on cloth and spices only. The expenditure on water-supply increased from Rs. 1101 in 1966-67 to Rs. 4,122 in 1969-70; that on street-lighting from Rs. 10,020 to Rs. 15,058 and on education from Rs. 9,065 to Rs. 16,010.

6. Municipal Committee, Kawardha

It was constituted in the year 1936. The committee was composed of 13 members and a non-official elected President. Prior to the formation of the municipality, the sanitation in the town of Kawardha was looked after by the police assisted by a permanent conservancy staff paid by the State. In 1968-69 there were 14 members of whom 12 were elected and 2 nominated. Up to the year 1968-69, there was no water-supply scheme in the town. Expenditure on construction of drains, culverts, repairs of wells, *Ghats*, etc. has been Rs. 7,708 in the year 1966-67 and Rs. 4,316 during the next year. But in the year 1968-69, it suddenly rose to Rs 44,266. Expenditure on street-lighting increased from Rs. 16,149 in 1966-67 to Rs. 18,637 in 1968-69. The total income of the municipality which was Rs. 157,834 in 1966-67 increased to Rs. 195,390 in 1970-71. The corresponding expenditure is Rs. 177,179 and Rs. 171,845 respectively. The provisional 1971 population of the town is 11,327.

1. Education

Till recently one of the most important local functions was the spread of education. The C. P. and Berar Education Act of 1920 provided for the introduction of compulsory education for boys and girls in the municipal areas. Durg Municipalitp had 3 primary schools in 1910-11, which increased to 5 primary schools, and one middle school in 1940-41 and 6 primary schools, one middle school and one high school in 1948-49. In 1965-66 the Committee was running 19 primary schools, one middle school and one higher secondary school in the municipal area. Rajnandgaon Municipality was managing 11 primary schools out of which 7 were for boys and 4 for girls. Chhuikhadan and Dongargarh Municipalities were maintaining 3 primary schools, one middle school and 2 primary schools, respectively. The total expenditure incurred by the Municipalities of the District on Education is given in the following Table.—

Year	Durg	Rajnandgaon	Dongargarh	Chhuikhadan	Khairagarh	Kawardha
1961-62	2,23,939	2,64,633	31,287	13,316	..	–
1965-66	1,42,097	4,09,215	3,896	...	9,081	–
1968-69	2,79,663	2,20,894	..	3,561	22,867	12,781
1969-70	–	2,83,446	–	4,334	16,010	14,348

2. Street Lighting

In 1965-66 in all the six municipal towns the streets were lighted with eleectricity and kerosene lamps. Electric light was switched on in Durg town in 1951. In 1964-65 there were 128 kerosene lamps and 430 electric lamps. Dongargarh town got the electric supply from August, 1957 and in 1965-66 the town was having 368 electric poles. The following Table gives an idea of expenditure on street lighting by the Municipalities of the District.

Year	Durg	Rajnand-gaon	Dongar-garh	Chhuikha-dan	Khaira-garh	Kawardha
1960-61	56,125	31,321	13,416	863	2,612	12,480
1961-62	61,019	36,980	14,899	1,619	3,409	11,367
1962-63	78,590	41,571	17,793	1,592	6,770	11,138
1963-64	70,225	45,143	13,237	N.A.	7,977	13,110
1964-65	70,858	43,182	22,316	N.A.	9,983	26,617
1965-66	..	44,218	19,861	9,512	10,578	20,409
1966 67	91,815	83,139	...	4,927	10,020	16,149
1967-68	90.934	53.320	...	4,957	10,341	15,296
1968-69	98.380	49,565	..	5,064	11,709	18,637
1969-70	..	74,634	..	6,015	15,057	20,872

3. Public Health

It accounts for the largest item of municipal expenditure in most of the municipalities.

4. Water Supply

The adequate provision of pure and clean drinking water is one of the chief tasks of municipalities today. In this District, Durg and Rajnandgaon towns have water-works in which chlorinated water is supplied. In the area of other municipalities, where water is mostly derived from wells and tanks actue water scarcity is experienced during the summer season and diseases like cholera, typhoid and others are disseminated by impure water.

The Water Works at Durg was completed in 1952 and designed to treat and supply one million gallons of water per day which worked out to 30 gallons per head per day. With the establishment of Bhilai Steel Works the Durg Water Works has to cater the needs of a much larger population than it was designed to serve. The main source of supply of water is the Seonath river where an anicut has been provided. The municipality had borrowed six lakhs of Rupees for this purpose from the Government. In 1965-66, 20 lakhs gallons of water

was pumped out, of which 10 lakh gallons was supplied to the Bhilai Steel Project. A comprehensive scheme for water supply and drainage for Durg town, estimated to cost Rs. 14,30,890 has been prepared by the Municipal Council. The following Table shows the income from and expenditure on water supply by the Municipalities of the District.—

Years	Durg		Rajnandgaon		Khairagarh	
	Income (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)	Income (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)	Income (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1960-61	1,05,436	73,153	50,960	3,23,369	Nil	1,657
1961-62	82,858	46,112	77,988	1,20,031	"	2,100
1962-63	82,858	35,135	60,712	1,28,049	"	2,961
1963-64	1,20,712	78,865	65,840	1,29,227	"	1,584
1964-65	1,19,992	64,712	60,430	1,57,500	"	1,545
1965-66	95,720	64,170	81,384	1,43,281	"	1,342
1966-67	1,23,544	19,762	82,259	2,02,437	"	1,101
1967-68	1,00,492	21,136	1,02,924	1,80,105	"	2,146
1968-69	1,40,619	28,285	65,666	1,54,962	"	1,557
1969-70	..	..	95,071	2,00,402	"	4,122

Town Planning

The present configuration of Durg town shows a haphazard growth as no specific layout was enforced. A branch-office of the Town Planning Department under Local Self (Urban) Government was started at Durg in 1963 for preparation of Master Plan for Bhilai Urban Complex Area and Durg town. A separate scheme was also approved by the Government for the preparation of Regional Development Plan for Bhilai region in which Raipur and Durg Districts are included. Suitable sites of open land for extension of *abadi* have been considered. For taking up housing schemes, land in front of Tarun Talkies, land under circuit house triangle, and the land near Kasardih village have been proposed. For further extension of *abadi* undeveloped land between Mathapara and Nayapara may be reclaimed and can also be improved under residential scheme.

Slum may be improved by taking slum clearance schemes. To avoid accidents and nuisance of heavy traffic it has been proposed to divert National Highway *via* Baghera and Sikola village border. A new overbridge near present dam site and the other over the railway have been proposed to avoid accidents and delay on level-crossing and to encourage smooth flow of traffic. Existing town roads will be widened according to the proposals. Chitnawis road and others will be developed on circulating pattern. Necessary amenities on road like footpath, electrification, suitable surface, telegraph lines and tree plantation shall also be provided.

To avoid the overcrowding, a new Commercial Centre near the Durg Water works is proposed. A new vegetable and fruit market is proposed near Moti Park and the work is under execution. Present grain market will be shifted towards Sikola village on Dhamda Bemetara road to avoid bullock-cart traffic on busy and important roads. Separate land has been developed by the Industries Department for an Industrial Estate at Durg. Near Sikola village along the Dhamda-Bemetara road.

Adequate provision has been made in the interim development plan for play-fields, children's park and recreation centres. Existing open land in the rear side of Jathar club is reserved for stadium and sports club. In addition to this large areas on the side of the major tank, i.e.. Shahadabanda and Harnabanda are to be developed into big recreational centres proposed in the plan. The total expenditure on this scheme is estimated to be Rs. 3,29,38,965.

Bhilai Urban Complex

The urbanisation in Bhilai town has been very rapid. The impact of national project is considerably large on two big urban centres, i.e., Raipur city and Durg town and it is further extended up to 64 km. radius. The Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited, acquired about 75 sq. km. area which covers 22 villages to accommodate big township and a large project site. The provisional population figures for 1971 of Bhilai Nagar and Bhilai Nagar Uraban Outgrowth are 1,58,464 and 16,093 respectively. The necessary amenities to industrial labour like residential accommodation, marketing centre, primary and Major Health centres, childrens' park, play-grounds, recreation centres and important services like water-supply, sewage, electrification, etc. have been provided.

District Council

The year 1883, marks the introduction of local self-Government in the rural area when the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act was passed and enforced. Under this Act, a District Council was constituted at Durg along with five Local Boards, in 1909. The composition of the District Council and Local Boards was as follows.[1]

	Number of Members in 1909-10				in 1918-19		
	Ex-officio	Nominated	Elected	Total	Nominated	Elected	Total
1. District Council, Durg	—	7	20	27	7	21	28
2. Local Board (Durg)	—	5	17	22	5	17	22
3. Local Board (Bemetara)	—	5	15	20	5	15	20
4. Local Board (Sanjari)	—	5	14	19	5	14	19
5. Local Board (Northern Zamindari)	3	—	2	5	2	2	4
6. Local Board (Southern Zamindari)	4	—	2	6	2	4	6

1 Drug District Gazetteer, 1910, p. 126.

The jurisdiction of the District council extended to whole of the District while the area under the Local Board was roughly extensive with a tahsil area. The Local Boards were under the controlling agency of the District council.

The members of the District Council were elected not by direct representation but by and from the Local Boards. Not more than one-third of the total number of members were nominated by the Deputy Commissioner. Though there was a provision for the election of a non-official chairman, in practice the official chairman was still retained. Out of 27 members of the District Council at Durg, 3 were officials and the remaining 24 members were non-officials. For election to local boards. villages of tahsils were grouped into circles. These circles elected their representatives. In addition, there were representatives of *Mukaddams* and mercantile class or profession. In case of Durg, Bemetara, Northern Zamindari Local Board and Southern Zamindari Local Board the number of official members was two while in case of Sanjari the number of official members was three.[1] The District Council and Local Boards had an elected Secretary in whom were vested the executive powers. The members of the Council and Board held office for a period of three years.

The Local Boards had no indepenent income but used to submit estimates of expeniture on minor improvements to the District Council. Local Boards were working as the agents of the District Council. In the year 1910 some of the duties were transferred from District Council to Local Boards which till then were entrusted with the management of minor civil works, rural school and cattlepounds, under the supervision of the District Council. In the beginning the upkeep of all roads other than the main provincial routes was entrusted to the Councils but as they showed their incapability to up-keep the roads, the management of all except village tracks was transferred to the Government Public Works Department.

The constitution of the District Council and Local Boards underwent a change within a few years. In the year 1918-19, the official Chairman of Durg District Council was replaced by a non-official.

Following the Mont-Ford Report and the Government of India Act, 1919, a new legislation, Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act, 1920, was enacted. This Act provided a step further, both in liberalisation of constitution and in grant of powers of taxation. The District was divided into groups and circles. For each group of circles a Local Board and for each District a District Council were established. Accordingly, Durg District was divided into five groups and forty nine circles.[2] These areas were wholly

1 Resolution Reviewing the Reports on the Working of District Councils and Local Boards in C P. and Berar, 1911-12, p. 4.
2 The C. P. District Council Manual, pp 29-42.

rural and excluded such areas as were included in a military Cantonment, a municipality and a notified area Committee.

Under the Act the District Council was composed of two-thirds of the total members elected by and from the Local Boards, one-sixth of the persons selected from the general electorate by the members elected by the Local Boards, and one-sixth other than Government officials, appointed by Government by nomination, while the Local Boards consisted of only two kinds of members i.e., elected and nominated, and the number of nominated members could not exceed one fourth of total membership of the Board. The position of the reconstituted bodies as in the year 1924-25 is shown below.[1]

Name	Population	Ex-officio	Number of members (1924-25)			
			Nominated	Elected	Selected	Total
1. Durg District Council	7,43,246	1	4	16	4	25
2. Durg Local Board	2,61,423	2	3	18	—	23
3. Bemetara Local Board	1,85,452	—	3	15	—	18
4. Sanjari Local Board	1,55,355	—	2	14	—	16
5. Northern Zamindari Local Board	45,845	—	1	6	—	7
6. Southern Zamindari Local Board	95,170	—	1	5	—	6

The Central Provinces and Berar Local Self-Government Act (XXXII) of 1939, however, abolished the nominated element in the Local Boards and made them completly elected. Under the amended constitution the Local Boards consisted ordinarily of elected members, each circle constituting the group and electing one representative. In order to give representation to certain special classes and interests it was provided that in case the elected members did not include a Muslim, a Harijan and a woman the elected members must select by single transferable votes a member from each of these failing which the provincial Government would make the necessary appointments. This Act also introduced the principle of adult franchise for the election.

The elections to the District Council were indirect, four fifths of the prescribed number being elected by a single transferable vote by the Local Boards under its control from amongst their own members; and remaining one-fifth elected by single transferable vote by the members elected by the Local Board from amonst persons residing in the area and having qualifications of a voter. Similar to the Local Board, the inclusion of a Muslim, a Harijan or a

1 Resolution Reviewing the Reports on the Working of District Councils and Local Boards in C. P. and Berar, *1924-25*, pp. 4 and 16.

woman was also provided in the District Council. The proposed number of members in the Durg District Council was 25, of these the elected were five each from Durg, Bemetara and Sanjari Balod Local Boards, two from Northern and three from southern Zamindari Local Boards. The remaining five members were to be selected.

The new constiution, however, never came into force and the Local Boards and the District Council constituted in 1936 continued to function in the same form till 1948. Section 67 of the Act, as amended in 1940, authorised the Provincial Government either to exclude any District Council or Local Board area from the application of certain provisions of the Act, or to apply any provision of the Act to such areas in a modified form. The only change made in the constitutions of District Council and Local Boards was to authorise the provincial Government to appoint a number of additional members to represent the interests of the aboriginals in these areas.

The Table in Appendix-A gives an idea of the Income and Expenditure of the District Council, Durg, during selected periods.

Janapada Sabhas

In 1948, a scheme to overhaul the machinery of Local Self-Government was embodied in the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act, 1948 which replaced the District Council and Local Boards by Janapada Sabhas at tahsil level. The Janapada Scheme was inaugurated on 1st July, 1948 in the integrated states and on 15th August of the same year in the rest of the Central Provinces and Berar. The position of Janapada Sabha with respect to the merged States was different. Instead of a tahsil as a unit each of the erstwhile states was constituted into a separate Janapada Sabha irrespective of the number of the tahsils it had. It may be stated here that there were no District Council and Local Boards in existence in the States. They had, therefore, no funds to start with when the Janapad Sabhas were firrt constituted. To tide over the difficulty, the Government gave advance which was later converted into a grant to these Janapada Sabhas.

The following Table shows the details of various Janapada Sabhas and the number of transferred institutions and particulars of the merged states of Durg District in 1948.

Name of Janapada Sabha	Area in sq. km.	Population	Number of villages	Number of schools	No. of dispensaries	Income (in Rs.)	Expenditure (In Rs.)
Khairagarh	1,619	1,62,276	490	43	3	5,48,949	115,818
Rajnandgaon	1,906	1,95,544	528	73	7	3,58,625	209,989
Kawardha	875	76,458	393	42	7	1,87,268	185,545
Chhuikhadan	352	30,414	104	..	..	84,605	39,523

In the former area of the District three Janapada Sabhas were established at Durg, Bemetara and Sanjari-Balod. The following Table shows the particulars of these Janapada Sabhas in 1948.

Name of Janapada Sabha	Area in sq. km.	Population	Number of villages	Income (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1. Durg	2,937	3,38,033	621	2,71,097	3,39,721
2. Bemetara	4,059	2,99,235	865	3,71,419	3,04,915
3. Sanjari Balod	5,219	3,21,661	1080	3,19,889	4,97,293

It is clear from the above Tables that the areas, population, and financial resources of the Janapada Sabhas varied considerably. After about two years of their working, the Janapada-cum-tahsil administrative set-up was inaugurated on 1st July 1950. In the beginning the members were nominated by the Government. The number of nominated members of Kawardha and Sanjari Balod Janapada were 22 and 32, respectively, representing rural and urban areas.

The Government appointed a Janapada Enquiry Committee in April, 1952. The recommendations of the committee were given statutory effect by the enactment of Madhya Pradesh Local Self-Government (Second and Third Amendment) Act, 1953. Accordingly the number of Janapada Sabhas in the District was reduced from seven to six after abolishing Chhuikhadan Sabha.

These nominated bodies continued to function till March, 1964, when the first elections to all the reconstituted Sabhas of the District were held. The following Table gives the size and compostion, and rural circles of the Janapada Sabhas of the District.

Name of Janapada Sabha	Area in sq. km.	Population	Number of member			Rural Circls
			Elected	Selected	Total	
Durg	2,774	3,38,033	30	6	36	30
Rajnandgaon	1,922	2,18,844	..	..	..	20
Kawardha	2,719	1,71,984	20	1	21	19
Khairagarh	2,257	2,24,470	19	6	25	18
Sanjari Balod	NA	38,1,472	30	7	37	29
Bemetara	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	28

The number of Councillors from urban areas was two each from Durg and Rajnandgaon Municipal Councils and one each from Dongargarh, Chhuikhadan and Kawardha Municipal Councils.[1] The members of the Janapada Sabha are elected and selected. Elected members are of two kinds, those representing rural circles and others representing urban circles. From rural

2 The Madhya Pradesh Janapada Manual, p. 120.

circle members are elected directly from the constituencies, while in urban circles they are elected by the elected members of the municipal bodies. There is a provision to select one Harijan and Scheduled Tribe member if they are not included amongst the elected members. The life of the Sabha is five years from the date of its first meeting.

In pursuance of the Act of 1948, every Sabha in the District elected a Chairman and a deputy Chairman and appointed out of its own body Standing Committees on Finance, Public Works, Public Health, Education, Agriculture and Development. The Development Committee was, however, abolished in accordance with the recommendations of the Janapada Enquiry Committee, 1952, and instead an Administrative Committee comprising eleven or equal to one-third of the total number of Councillors, whichever was greater was constituted by each Sabha. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Janapada Sabha are Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer is the *ex-officio* Secretary of every Standing Committee. The Sub-Divisional Officers of Durg, Bemetara, Sanjari Balod, Khairagarh Rajnandgaon and Kawardha act as the Chief Executive Officers of these Janapada Sabhas and the Tahsildars function as Deputy Executive Officers of the respective Janapada Sabhas of the District.

Functions

The Janapada Sabhas have been vested with larger authority and wider power than the former Local Boards. The functions allotted to the Janapada Sabhas are numerous. In brief, they include all measures likely to promote the health, comfort, education and convenience of the people living in the rural areas. Broadly speaking these are classified into three categories (1) obligatory (2) discretionary and (3) entrusted. Obligatory duties were 16 in number in the Amendment Act of 1953. While performing these entrusted functions, the Sabha acts as an agent of the State Government and works strictly according to policy and instructions laid down for it. Besides these duties, the Sabha have been authorised to exercise general power of inspection, supervision and control over the Gram Panchayats within their respective areas.

Financial Resources

Under the Act of 1948 the sources of income of Janapada Sabhas are the proceeds of taxes, fees, tolls, cesses and rates imposed under the Act, all such rents and profits from *nazul* property in Janapada area, and such percentage of land revenue as the Government may fix. The income and expenditure figures for the period 1956-57 to 1965-66 of all the Janapada Sabhas of Durg District have been given in Appendix A.

On the recommendations of the Janapada Enquiry Committee the additional cess was abolished and the rate of compulsory cess was raised. Moreover, the Government agreed to meet 75 percent of expenditure on primary education. This ceiling could go up to 90 percent in case of expenditure for backward areas. The Janapada Sabha was also given a share of land revenue at the rate of 5 per cent of the annual demand in each year.

Of the various functions which the Sabha performs, those relating to education, medical and public health, and public works are most important.

Education

The establishment, management, maintenance and inspection of schools was an important function of the District Council till recently. There has been remarkable progress in the sphere of education during the period of Sabha's existence.

In 1948-49, Durg Janapada Sabha maintained 2 middle and 71 primary schools, with 151 and 4,858 students, respectively. This number subsequently increased to 66 middle and 245 primary schools with 3,428 and 30,487 students in 1963-64. It was also managing one higher secondary school with 51 students during the same year.

Rajnandgaon Janapada Sabha had 3 middle and 65 primary schools in the year 1948-49, which increased to 4 high schools, 25 middle schools and 217 primary schools in 1963-64, respectively.

Kawardha Janapada Sabha had one higher secondary school, 13 middle schools and 109 primary schools in 1963-64.

Khairagarh Janapada Sabha had 39 primary schools in 1948-49 which increased to 188 primary schools, 21 middle schools and one higher secondary school in 1963-64.

Balod Janapada had 62 primary schools and 6 middle schools in 1948-49, which subsequently increased to 165 primary schools, 35 middle schools and one high school in 1963-64. The expenditure on education has rapidly risen owing to the ever increasing demand of schools in rural areas. The services of teachers of the schools run by Janapada Sabhas of the District have since been taken over by the Government.

Public Health and Medical Aid

The main activities under this head are management of dispensaries, provision and purification of drinking water, measures for prevention of epidemic, vaccination and inoculation. The number of Ayurvedic dispensaries in Durg, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha and Balod were 16, 11, 13, 8 and 11, respectively. In

addition, Khairagarh and Balod Janapada Sabhas are also maintaining one Allopathic and one veterinary dispensary each. The amount spent on public health activities by the Janapada Sabhas of the District shows a gradual rise as is evident from the Table below.

Expenditure on Public Health

Year	Durg	Rajnandgaon	Kawardha	Khairagarh	Balod	Bemetara
1948-49	20,380	4,887	298	957	15,734	N.A.
1950-51	23,600	27,013	9.305	4,480	16.187	N.A.
1955-56	53,897	56,639	22,801	6,436	30.580	N.A.
1960-61	69,451	41,561	25.139	9,312	52,647	N.A.
1965-66	1.42,434	3,885	—	—	89,498	N.A.
1969-70	1,49,024	3,492	38,579	16,013	94,272	N.A.

Note: The figures for Bemetara are not available.

Public Works

The development of rural communications and construction of buildings for panchayats, schools and dispensaries and construction and repairs of wells and tanks are important items under Public Works. The following table gives the amount spent under this head by the Janapada Sabhas of the District for a few selected years.

Janapada Expenditure on Public Works

Year	Durg	Rajnandgaon	Bemetara	Kawardha	Khairagarh	Balod
1956-57	48,709	52,138	86,542	34,282	26,672	16,572
1960-61	38,608	42,824	99,347	21.583	1,69,879	29.489
1961-62	1,21,300	37,014	N. A.	38,047	1,08,962	22,851
1962-63	1,13,760	7.428	N. A.	23,616	63,490	18,517
1963-64	1,20,760	3,904	N. A.	43,193	98,719	37,530
1964-65	1,56,591	4,094	N. A.	—	77,078	—
1965-66	1.17.189	3,677	N. A.	—	1,29,681	—
1966-67	1,19,530	3,490	N. A.	6,302	1,05,375	44,457
1967-68	52,916	2.618	N. A.	6.951	49,797	13,471
1968-69	1,35,508	2,514	N. A.	5,601	78,846	28,932
1969-70	--	1,884		2.001	68.062	9,693

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

The Village Panchayats formed an integral part of our national life and preserved our culture and tradition in the rural areas against all political upheavals. During the early British regime high executive and judicial powers were conferred on the Government officials and when landlordism and *Ryotwari* system were introduced against the village tenure system, these panchayats gradually ceased to exist.

But soon the administration realised the importance of Panchayats and endeavour was made to revive this institution of village corporate life. Till 1907, no appreciable progress was made in this direction. It was the Decent-

ralisation Commission which proposed that in each village there should be one village panchayat to serve as a basic unit of local democracy and a primary unit of local Government. The Commission recommended certain functions for these local bodies, including management of village schools and powers of summary trial in small civil and criminal cases.

In the year 1918, following the Mont-ford Report, effective steps were initiated to organise panchayats, wherever possible. Two acts, the Central Provinces and Berar Village Sanitatian and Public Management Act of 1920 and Central Provinces and Berar Village Panchayats Act of 1920 were passed. Under these Acts provision was made to create Sanitation Panchayats in the areas notified by the Government, while under the other Acts regular village panchayats were to be established.

In 1924 three village panchayats were established at Nawagarh, Dadhi and Bemetara Pipri in Bemetara tahsil. This number increased to six in the year 1925, when Panchayats were established at Gunderdehi, and Chandkhuri villages of Durg tahsil and Balod of Sanjari Balod tahsil of the District. By 1930 there were 10 Panchayats in the District which increased to 17 in 1932.

The slow progress of the Panchayats, however, led to the appointment of an Enquiry Committee in 1935 in the Central Provinces and Berar. The committee among other things recommended that Panchayats should be endowed with civil and criminal powers. The recommendation of the committee were embodied in the Central Provinces and Berar panchayats Act 1946.

The Village Panchayats Act of 1920 was then replaced by the Panchayats Act, 1946, which came into force on the 28th February, 1947. According to the provision of the Act of 1946, the formation of Panchayats was split up into three stages, first for every village with a population of 1,000 people or more, second for villages with a population from 500 to 1000 persons and third for villages with a population below 500.

In the first instance the Panchayats were provided with nominated panchas and Sarpanch for a term of three years after which elections were held. A Gram (Village) Panchayat is composed of 5 to 15 *Panchas* elected by a secret ballot for a period of 5 years, on adult franchise basis. The Patel is an *ex-officio panch* over and above the authorised strength. The *Sarpanch* of a *Gram Panchayat* is elected from amongst its own members who are residents of village, while an *Up Sarpanch* is nominated by the Sarpanch.

Functions

Under the old Act the functions of the Village Panchayats were limited to village sanitation and dealing with petty judicial cases. But under the Act

of 1946, the Panchayats were entrusted with administrative, development and municipal functions.

The sources of income of the village panchayats include a cess on land revenue, house taxes, profession tax and licence fee on brokers for practising etc. With the approval of the local Janapada Sabha, some other taxes can be levied as tolls on vehicles, pack-animals and markets, water-rate and lighting fee. In addition to these, every panchayat is empowered to raise loans equal to 5 per cent of it's revenue from the village Development Fund.

The Table below shows the income and expenditure of the village panchayats in the District from 1956-57 to 1967-68.

Year	Income	Expenditure
1956-57	43,633	37,547
1957-58	1,15,370	1,04,153
1958-59	1,58,038	1,11,289
1959-60	2,54,561	2,16,268
1960-61	2,65,456	2,22,465
1961-62	2,44.354	2,34,532
1962-63	3,44,567	2,56,785
1963-64	2,56,786	2,34,654
1964-65	5,57,494	5,27,023
1965-66	7,85,283	4,65,923
1966-67	12,48,762	10,97,214
1967-68	11,53.465	9,83,215

Nyaya Panchayat

The establishment of Nyaya Panchayats was aimed at providing the village people with cheaper, speedier and simple justice. Under Central Provinces and Berar Panchayats Act, 1946, Nyaya Panchayats were constituted at the scale of one each for a group of villages. Nyaya Panchayats consisted of at least five members. The details regarding the Nyaya Panchayats are available in the chapter on Law and Order and Justice.

Panchayat Raj

The prevalence of different systems of Panchayats in the various constituent units of the reorganised Madhya Pradesh created considerable administrative inconvenience. The need was felt to achieve uniformity of pattern by integrating the various sets of laws pertaining to the rural local bodies. The Rural Local Self Government Committee was, therefore, appointed by

the State Government in July, 1957, for this purpose. As a result, the Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962 was enacted, embodying the recommendations of the Committee. The new Act envisages introduction of three-tier system of Panchayats: Gram Panchayat at the village level, the Janpada Panchayat at the Development Block level and the Zila Panchayat at the District level. The new Act is under various stages of implementation in the District. Under this Act a Gram Sabha, constiting of all the adults of the village, has been established in villages with a population of more than 1000.

A Gram Panchayat consists of 10 or more elected members and in addition such number of co-opted or appointed members as to ensure at least two seats to women, due representation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and one representative of the Co-operative Societies.

Janpada Panchayat

The Janapada Panchayat is to be the main administrative and executive body at the block level. It will formulate programmes, raise resources and approve schemes. Every Janapada Panchayat shall consist of from 15 to 30 elected and co-opted members. Besides the elected members, it shall be composed of one representative of the co-operative Marketing Society or Co-operative union, one representative each of the corporation, municipality or the notified area committee within the block and all members of the State Legislative Assembly returned from the constituencies which wholly or partly fall within the block. There is provision for co-option of two women and representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, if the same are not included among the elected members.

Each Janapada Panchayat shall constitute from amongst its own members, seven Standing Committees on Finance, Education, Public Works, Public Health, Agriculture, Administration and General. Every Janapada Panchayat shall have a chief Executive Officer appointed by the State Government.

Zila Panchayat

At the apex of the panchayat system in the District, there shall be the Zila panchayat. It shall be a body corporate, composed of presidents of Janapada Panchayats within the District, all members of the Lok Sabha, representing Parliamentary Constitutencies which either wholly or partly form part of the District; all members of the Rajya Sabha returned from the State of Madhya Pradesh and ordinarily residing in the District, all members of State Legislative Assembly, representing constituencies which wholly or partly form part of the District; and district officers representing the development departments in the District. If the Zila Panchayat does not include a woman, members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and a representative of co-operative societies, such persons shall be co-opted. The Zila Panchayat shall elect its

own Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and shall constitute five Standing Committees on planning and community development, co-operation, industries, education, social welfare and finance.

The main functions of a Zila Panchayat are supervision and guidance of the working of Janapada and Gram Panchayats and advising Government in matters relating to all their activities in general and developmennt activities in particular within its jurisdiction.

The term of office of Gram, Janapada and Zila Panchayats is five years. The Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962 came into force in 1964 and the Panchayats constituted under the Act started functioning in the year 1965. There were 825 *gram panchayats* and 146 *Nyaya Panchayats* under the Act of 1962. The table below gives their numbers in 1963 and 1970.

Name of Tahsil	No. of Gram Panchayats	No. of Nyaya Panchayats (1963)	(1970)
1. Durg	169	29	19
2. Balod	191	32	27
3. Bemetara	154	28	18
4. Khairagarh	109	21	5
5. Rajnandgaon	112	21	5
6. Kawardha	90	16	4
	825	146	78

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Religion and education have been inextricably intertwined in India. Therefore, it is to be surmised that the temples were symbolic of the educational and cultural advancement of the District. The *gurus* collected their students at the portals of these temples in order to impart learning. Kawardha was the official headquarters of the *Mahant* of Kabirpanthi sect. It is also said that the name Kawardha is a correct form of *Kabirdham*, meaning the seat of Kabir,[1] whose disciple Dharmdas, a rice merchant, after forsaking all his wordly fortune led a spiritual life and formed Dharmdasi branch of Kabirpanth in the region and imparted religious teaching to the masses. The ruling chiefs of Nandgaon State were at one time *Bairagis* (religious mendicants) and Hari Das, who later became a zamindar, was the spritual guide of the *Ranis* of Ratanpur.[2]

In earlier times the children were taught elementary education in arithmetic and the great Epics. This system of teaching later attained a definite shape in the form of *pathshalas*, and in the indigenous schools, which were ephemeral in nature. The affluent landlords engaged *gurus* for the education of their wards, and raised no objection to the arrangement being shared by other boys in the village so long as his (*guru's*) services were retained.

The Chhattisgarh tract was the path of many pilgrims, and a number of schools "were opened in the rains to be closed in the cold weather when the master resumed his wanderings."[3] Yet another cause of their fleeting nature was that the people of the region were agriculturists, mostly poor. Probably, they could not keep their wards at the schools throughout the year, their services being required in the fields at times.

Beginning of Western Education

Efforts to introduce western education in Chhattisgarh region were made in 1862, the year of establishment of an Education Department in the Central Provinces.[4] The Directorate of Public Instruction was established at Nagpur, and an Inspector of Schools was stationed at Raipur to organize educational activities in the Chhattisgarh region.[5]

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1 Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 145.
2 Ibid., p. 87.
3 Education Commission, 1882, C. P. Report, p. 1.
4 Ibid., p. 7.
5 C. P. Administration Report, 1862, p. 52.

Durg Tahsil of Raipur District, had only one primary school at Durg, and about ten primary schools situated in other parts of the Tahsil, during the last decade of the nineteenth century. There were no separate schools for girls, and students desirous of prosecuting further education, either at high school or normal school, were obliged to go to Raipur.

In 1882, the number of primary schools alone, in the Four Feudatory States was 14 with a strength of 903 students.[1] Of the four states, Chhuikhadan had been consistently educating the highest percentage of children; 12.5 per cent in 1902, 14.2 per cent in 1904, and 16.4 per cent in 1905.

Kawardha

In 1894-95, the State had 16 schools with 951 students. But there was a steep fall both in the number of students and schools in 1900—the fall having been attributed to financial stringency. In 1903, a Branch School was opened at Kawardha for Harijan children. In November, 1904, an English School was opened by one Becker of the German Evangelical Mission, but was closed in 1905, on account of small attendance. The total number of schools in the State, in 1906, was 11 with 1,046 pupils in them. The year was eventful, as three new school buildings were constructed in the State. Throughout, attention was also paid to co-curricular activities, such as games and physical training. Cricket seems to have been a popular game of the school-children. Only one student passed the Teachers' Training Certificate Examination in 1900, and three others in 1906.

Khairagarh

The progress of education in the State had been steady with 11 schools and 725 students in 1894-95, 22 and 1,200, respectively in 1901, and with 28 schools and 2,405 students in 1906. During the year 1903, a school for Harijans was opened at Matia, and another in the following year. Special bonuses were given to the childern of the Harijans for prosecuting studies, In 1903, there were 58 Harijan students, increasing to 185 in 1904, and to 256 in 1906. Only three students got through the Teachers' Training Certificate Examination in 1906.

Nandgaon

The erstwhile State of Nandgaon, which had 23 schools and 1,763 students in 1901, suffered a sudden set-back during the two years that followed, the spectre of famine in the State having eclipsed the educational progress. Conditions, however, improved in the succeeding years and the figures of schools and students in 1906 stood at 31 and 2,815, respectively. Though there was a

1 Ibid., p. 39.

girls school at Rajnandgaon as early as in 1900, there appeared to be considerable apathy among the rich classes towards girls' education. Later the State made a steady progress in this branch of education too. From 91 girl students in 1902, the number increased to 156 in 1903, and to 208 in 1904. Additional accommodation in the Girls School of Rajnandgaon was, therefore, provided in 1906.

In the matter of school buildings, the State fared much better than others during the period. Six buildings were constructed in 1904, three in 1905, and one in 1906. The construction of these was either financed by individuals or through private subscriptions. Raja Balram Das opened an English Middle School, and provided scholarships.[1] A separate school for Harijan boys was also opened at Rajnandgaon in 1903. Books and slates were supplied free to the boys. There were 73 students in this school in 1903, the number rising to 110 in 1904. Besides, Harijan boys were admitted in other schools too. The total number of Harijan boys being educated in 1904, stood at 438. In this State too, the Teachers' Training Certificate Examination was not quite popular; only three got through the examination in 1906. Cricket was a popular game among boys of Rajnandgaon.

Chhuikhadan

This State has been educating the highest percentage of children, compared to other Feudatory States of Chhattisgarh. It has also been maintaining a steady progress, both in the matter of schools and pupils. It had two schools in 1894-95, the number increasing to seven in 1900, and to nine in 1906. Likewise, the number of pupils increased from 162 in 1894-95 to 376 in 1900, and to 912 in 1906. However, during 1902, the average daily attendance receded, as the wolves that infested the area terrorised the people, preventing them from moving about freely. During 1905, the State offered a scholarship of Rs. 5 to encourage youths of agricultural classes to go for training to Agriculture School, Nagpur. The amount was increased to Rs. 8 in 1906. Harijan boys who jointed the schools numbered 76 in 1903. One student passed the Teachers' Training Certificate Examination in 1900, and five in 1906.

Organisation of Education Department

Having realized that vernacular was the best medium in schools, the Government encouraged vernacular schools, and itself established these at district and tahsil headquarters. English schools were started at places where there was scope for them. In addition, normal schools were founded to train teachers. To ensure effective working of these institutions, the Government introduced inspection system as mentioned earlier. The ambit of these Inspectors was extended to the primary schools too. Civil servants were also made responsible for the spread of education. Indigenous schools were given result-grants. To

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1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazettear, p. 88.

assist the inspection and assess popular opinion gommittees were nominated for every Government school in the Province.

Agency Inspector of Schools

With the appointment of Rai Bahadur Dr. Hiralal in the last decade of the 19th century as the Agency Inspector of Schools Chhattisgarh Feudatory States, education received great impetus. He visited and inspected schools, perhaps for the first time in the remotest and most inaccessible forest recesses of the States and introduced a better pay-scale for teachers. Dr. Hiralal's indefatigable energy and untiring efforts resulted in the spread of education in ever new areas. In addition, Rajnandgaon had a Deputy Inspector, while Kawardha and Khairagarh, each had a Joint Deputy Inspector. During 1895-96, Chhuikhadan, however, continued to be inspected by the Government educational machinery[1] until the dawn of the new century when it too came under the control of the Agency-Inspector. In 1902, all the three States—Nandgaon, Kawardha and Chhuikhadan—were brought under the control of one Deputy Inspector.[2]

The Education Department in Chhattisgarh was headed by a Circle Inspector. Durg District, was divided into two ranges with effect from 1st October, 1909. In 1938-39, the district machinery under the charge of a District Inspector of Schools was created.

Divisional Superintendent of Education

After the appointment of Deputy Directors at the headquarters in 1940, the Divisional Superintendent of Education, Raipur Division, Raipur, is the administrative and inspecting authority of the Government for higher secondary education, both in respect of boys and girls, since separate inspectorate branch for girls, created in 1946, ceased to exist from 1960-61.

District Education Officer

Since 1962, the District Inspector is redesignated as the District Educational Officer. For inspection purposes, Durg District was divided into 59 educational ranges in 1965-66, each range under the charge of an Assistant District Inspector of Schools. Their number in 1965-66 was 62. These include two Assistant Inspectresses of Scheme also. They inspect the primary and middle schools of their range. In this area, a number of schools are under the management of local bodies, and they are given grants-in-aid by the Government.

The first College opened

The collegiate non-technical education in the District is directly controlled by the Director of Collegiate Education, M.P., Bhopal, while the technical educa-

1. C.P. Education Report, 1895-96 p. 37.
2. C.P. Feudatory States Administration Report, 1902, p. 2.

tion at all levels is controlled by the Director of Technical Education, Bhopal. The Director of Public Instruction is responsible for the administrative control of general education up to higher secondary standard, including teachers' training at school levels.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

The Census of 1911, recorded 13,488 male and 444 female literates, which constituted 3.6 per cent and 0.11 per cent of the total male and female population, respectively. The figures for 1921 and 1931, revealed an increase in the percentage of both male and female literacy, though rise was not very significant. But there was a definite improvement in 1941, when there were 53,637 male and 4,899 female literates, as against 21,449 male and 1,534 female literates in 1931.

The Census of 1951 recorded a further rise in the literacy percentages of both males and females. The noteworthy feature was, that the number of literate females increased three-fold i.e. 16,601 in 1951. The percentage of male and female literacy to their respective population in the year was 15.2 and 2.2, respectively. The decade that followed, recorded the percentage of male literates almost double, and that of females almost treble. This marked progress during the decade can be attibuted to the consistent and conscious efforts made to further educational development in the District. A glance at the following table will enable the reader to appreciate the steady growth of literacy in the District.

	Literates			Literacy Percentage		
Year	Total	Males	Females	Total	Male	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1911	13,932	13,488	444	1,8	3.6	0,1
1621	16,687	15,533	1,154	2,2	4,4	0,2
1931	22,983	21,449	1,534	2,8	5,5	0,3
1941	58,536	53,637	4,899	6,3	11,9	1,6
1951	1,26,027	1,09,421	16,901	8,5	15,2	2,2
1961	3,36,479	2,77,618	58,861	17,8	29,3	6.3
1971	6,09,118	4,59,592	1,49,426	24.75	37.22	12.19

(*Note*:—Figures for 1911 to 1631 do not include those of the four Feudatory States, merged in the District in 1948). The figures for 1971 are provisional.

Taking into account both the rural and urban areas of the District, the 1961 Census records that 1,58,513 males and 38,609 females were literate though without any educational level, while 97,321 males and 17,944 females were educated upto the primary standard, and that 21,784 males and 2,308 females were educated upto the matriculation or stages beyond it. The following table

shows the educational levels attained by the people in urban areas according to 1961 Census:—

Educational Standard	Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females
Literate (without educational level)	50,510	35,950	14,560
Primary or junior basic	33,630	25,317	8,313
Matriculation or higher secondary	14,832	13,158	1,674
Technical diploma not equal to degree	1,385	1,376	9
Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	7	6	1
University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree	2,480	2,112	368
Teaching (technical)	7	3	4
Engineering	1,027	998	29
Technology	86	86	—
Agriculture	11	11	—
Veterinary	8	8	—
Medical	132	111	21
Other	3	3	—
Total of all Educational Standards	1,04,118	79,139	24,978

Spread of Education among Women

The general apathy, lack of separate schools for girls and good trained teachers were responsible for the snail-pace progress of women's education. No wonder, therefore, that prior to 1908-09, there were only two government schools for girls, and one aided school under the American Evangelical Mission in the old District. The number of female children in the District during the year 1909-10 being 49,933, the percentage of school-going girls to female children works out to be 5.14 per cent. In order to encourage girls to join boys' schools, school masters were offered bonus. This experiment was successful to some extent, and the number of school-going girls increased in general. But the scheme was abandoned owing to financial stringency in 1931-32.

The Beckett Committee on Female Education, constituted in 1926, recommended that the responsibility of opening new vernacular schools for girls be transferred from the Government to the local bodies, and that 50 per cent grant of the approved expenditure be given to them for the purpose. Consequently the number of primary schools for girls in the District fluctuated from 12 to 16 during thirties. On an average the attendance in the primary schools was above 60 per cent, and the average enrolment per year was above 860.

Between 1932-37, girl-students were considered for admission to high and Anglo-vernacular middle schools on equal terms with boys. They were also offered scholarships. The schemes did not make much impact as they constituted only 14.2 per cent of the total student population.[1]

1 C. P. Education Report for the quinquennium ending 31st March, 1934, p. XLI.

In an effort to improve women's education, the Government appointed an Officer on Special Duty, in 1943, to examine the position. Things, however, did not improve much, for even in 1947-48, the total average attendance of girls under instructions was 1,140.[1]

Female Education in States

While there existed no separate girls' school in the Feudatory State of Kawardha, the number of girls in co-education numbered 232 in 1910. During the next decade, it touched the lowest, i.e., 123 girls students in 1919. In the Feudatory State of Chhuikhadan in 1908, one such school was inaugurated in memory of *Rani* Hemkaur, in which 45 girls were enrolled in 1910. In Khairagarh State, prior to 1909, there were two schools for girls, including the one located at Khairagarh. Co-education was in vogue. There were only 83 girl students in 1922, and their number slightly increased to 108 in 1925.

It appears, of the four States, only Rajnandgaon had been making significant progress in the field of girls' education. As early as in 1900, there was a separate school for girls at Rajnandgaon. Added to that, girls were attending boys' schools too. There were 91 girl students in 1902, whose number increased to 264 in 1907, and to 414 in 1910. During the 'twenties, their number gradually increased from 1,007 in 1913 to 1,275 in 1917, and decreased to 1,170 in 1925. Again, in 1916, another girls' school was opened at Saja.

Post-Independence Position

The position of women's education with details regarding institutions and scholars for the years 1947, 1951 and 1956 is given below:—

Year	Primary Schools		Middle Schools	
	Institutions	Pupils	Institutions	Pupils
1947	27	3,279	—	204
1951	25	2,528	1	116
1956	29	13,181	2	2,862

As has been stated earlier, the percentage of female literacy in Durg, even in 1961, was only 6.3. Not many girls attended even primary schools. In order to promote girls' education in Madhya Pradesh, a State Council for Women's Education was established in 1960, in accordance with the recommendations of the National Council for Women's Education. Consequently girls' education in the District has improved considerably. The following table gives details regarding the number of institutions, enrolment and the teachers employed:—

1 Drug District Gazetteer, B. Vol. pp. 52-55.

Nature of School	1960-61			1964-65		
	Number of Institutions	No. of Pupils	No. of Teachers	No. of Institution	No. of Pupils	No. of Teacher
Pre-Primary	5	148	8	17	533	25
Primary	45	25,145	242	118	48,970	544
Middle	3	4,086	32	21	7,713	167
Higher Secondary	3	1,607	71	5	3,524	133

In the decade 1961-71 girls education increased to two fold form 6.3 per cent to 12.19 per cent.

Higher Secondary Schools

The Girls' Middle School at Dongargarh was converted into a Higher Secondary School in 1962-63. During 1964-65, another school was opened, thus bringing their total number to five while 1607 students were studying in these schools in 1960-61, their number increased to 3,524 in 1964-65.

Middle Schools

A new middle school was established at Patan in 1962-63, thus bringing their total number to nine. But the year that followed recorded a phenomenal increase-their number rising to 20. In 1964-65, one more school was opened, thus bringing the total number to 21. Similar increase was registered in the number of pupils, which increasrd from 4,086 in 1961 to 7,713 in 1964-65.

Primary Schools

The number of girls' primary schools also registered an enormous increase during this period. From 45 primary schools of all categories in 1960-61, the number swelled to 118 in 1963-64. There were 25,145 students in primary schools in 1060-61, increasing to 48,970 in 1964-65.

Scholarships

As for scholarships, 177 girls enjoyed the benefits during 1963-64, whereas 195 were the recipients during the next year.

Training of Women Teachers

There were three Basic Training Institutes in the District in 1964-65, run by the Government. The one at Khairagarh is exclusively meant for girls. The other two, at Bemetara and Dongargarh, are co-education Institutes. During 1963-64, the Khairagarh Institute, maintained at a cost of Rs. 53,440, trained 93 lady teachers.

Education for Backward Classes and Tribes

During the first decade of the present century, a total absence of educa-

tional facilities for the Backward Classes and Tribes in Durg District was noted.[1] However, in a few of the Feudatory States, which now form part of the District, schools for Harijan pupils were opened during this period. Khairagarh had one such school in 1903, with 58 pupils. Rajnandgaon had one school in 1903, with 73 boys. In 1912, the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar appointed a committee of officials and non-officials to consider the needs of Depressed Classes in the matters of education and employment. Consequently, liberal grants were paid by the Government to schools intended for boys of these classes. Bonuses were paid to head-masters as an incentive to take special interest in these boys.

During 1927-28, only 1,311 Depressed Class children were attending indigenous schools in the whole of British Chhattisgarh Division.[2] In 1938-39, Government Grants at the rate of Rs. 240, for each new school opened for aboriginals, were offered. Also, a Gond Propagandist was appointed to help opening new schools for aboriginals in the *Zamindari* areas of Durg. In addition, a sum of Rs. 300 was given to the District Harijan Sewak Sangh for education of Harijans in the District. In 1956, the Thakkar Bapa Committee surveyed the condition of Backward Classes, including Tribes.

According to 1961 Census, 2,06,872 or 10.97 per cent of the population of Durg District belonged to Scheduled Castes. Out of 18,85,236 people in the District, 2,08,777 or 11.07 per cent belonged to Scheduled Tribes. Of the Scheduled Castes, 3,239 in the urban areas were literate, including eight persons with University degrees. In rural areas, however, 19,323 persons were literate. Among the Scheduled Tribes, 1,204 in the urban, and 25,354 in rural areas were recorded to be literate in 1961 Census.

Among the highlights of the educational programme, launched for the benefit of Tribals, are the opening of primary schools, and provision of hostels and experimental farms in the middle schools. During the First Five-Year Plan, 50 primary schools were opened, their number increasing to 68 during the Second Plan period. During the next Plan, 74 more primary schools were added, thus bringing the total number of primary schools for Tribals to 142. Similarly, five middle schools were opened during the First-Year Plan, six during the Second Plan, and eleven more during the Third Plan period. Thus the total number of middle schools in the District for Tribals stands at 22. During the Third Plan, three higher secondary schools were also opened at the Tribal Development Blocks of the District.

School Buildings

As for expenditure on the construction of school buildings, a sum of Rs. 31,320, Rs. 43,850, and Rs. 5,06,625 was spent during the three Plan

1. Drug District Gazetteer, p. 131.
2. C.P. Education Report, 1927-28, pp. 36-37.

periods, respectively. In order to attract more children of Scheduled Tribes to schools, they have exempted both from the payment of school and examination fees,

Hostel Facilities

Hostels for Tribals have been constructed during the different Plan. By the end of the Third Plan, a provision of 35 hostels in the District was made, and hostelers were being given stipends,their number being 498 in the First, 1,089 in the Second and3,458 during the Third Plan periods.

Scholarships

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students are enjoying scholarship facilities. Students numbering 35,498 enjoyed these benefits during the First, 49,836 during the Second, and 64,136 during the Third Plan periods. Post-matric scholarships were instituted during the Third Plan period. The Government of India have been giving grants-in aid for this purpose. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs. 13,429 was given to 421 students of the District, during the period.

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students of the District in the age group of 16-25, who have passed at least VIII Class Examination, are sent to the two Industrial Training Institutes of Korba and Dhamnod. During the training period of 1½ years, they get a stipend of Rs. 50 per month. During 1966-67 academic session, 36 boys were deputed from the District to Korba and 23 to Dhamnod Institute.

Other Facilities

As an incentive to the Scheduled Tribe students of primary classes, slates, pencils and text-books are supplied free of cost. During the Third Plan period, 98,620 pupils of Durg District received these benefits. Yet another facility enjoyed by these students is that of free mid-day meals. This scheme was extended in the District in January, 1966.

The Scheduled Tribestudents numbering 22,905 attended the primary schools, 2,966 went to middle schools, while 730 were enrolled in the secondary schools. Thus 10.96 per cent of the Scheduled Tribe population attended primary schools, 1.29 per cent middle schools, 0.35 per cent higher secondary schools and 0·05 per cent were students of stages beyond matriculation.[1]

Education of Depressed Classes in the Feudatory States

In Kawardha, there were 143 students belonging to the Depressed Classes in 1909, 123 in 1907, 100 in 1908 and 190 in 1922. As for aboriginals, there were 55 students in 1917, their number decreasing to 52 in 1921, and to 47 in 1922.

1. Development of Education in M.P. (1947-64), pp. 35-36.

There were 259 Harijan pupils in 1909, in Khairagarh State. In 1922, 117 aboriginals and 66 Depressed Class boys were attending schools, their percentage to the total number of scholars was 12.73 per cent.

In Rajnandgaon State, there were 413 Depressed Class students in 1906, 489 in 1907 and 646 in 1919. The Depressed Class students in 1925, constituted 10 per cent of the total number of scholars.

In Chhuikhadan State too, the percentage of Harijan scholars to the total number of scholars in any particular year did not exceed 10 per cent. There were only 85 of them in 1906, and 97 in 1909.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Pre-Primary Education

A systematic pre-primary education is of recent origin. Meant for children of the age-group 3-6 years, it seeks to inculcate in them proper habit of health and behaviour and social sense. There were 5 Nursery schools, known as Bal Mandirs. In 1969-70, the number of schools and students was reported to be 16 and 1,790. respectively. The teaching staff consisted of 36 trained and 10 untrained teachers in the year. As sum of Rs. 15,814 was spent in 1961-62, and Rs. 76, 256 in 1969-70.

Teachers of Bal Mandirs run by the Municipal Committees, Janapada Sabha and private bodies are trained Matriculates, and are paid on par with their counterparts in primary schools. In addition, the Panchayats and Welfare Office have been running two Bal Mandirs at Khairagarh and Rajnandgaon Community Blocks. This scheme has been sponsored under the National Extension Service. A Balmandir and a Primary School wiht Gujarati medium of teaching is rum by Gujarati Shikshan sangh, Rajnandgaon, established in 1955, and registered in 1957.

Primary Education

The following table depicts the progress of primary education in the District from 1906 (when the District was formed) to 1947.—

Year	No. of Primary Schools	Average daily attendance of pupils	Expenditure in Rs.
1905-06	99	5445	2,192
1915-16	163	12,745	59,261
1925-26	189	8,317	1,07,506
1935-36	148	8,410	1,12,389
1245-46	158	10,371	1,44,748
1946-47	178	10,767	1,94,171

While the numbers of both institutions and pupils have been fluctuating, the expenditure on primary education has been increasing consistently. The initial increase was mainly due to the liberal grants for maintenance of primary schools both to local and private bodies. In 1935-36, the fall in their number could be attributed to the economic depression during the early 'thirties. Also the Government reduced the grants by 20 per cent to local bodies, and by 15 per cent to private bodies.[1]

To raise the standard of education, a Curricula Committee was established in 1921. It recommended a four years' course in primary schools. The curriculum was to consist of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and physical training with gardening, drawing and hand-work as optional subjects. The instruction, the Committee recommended, was to be in vernacular.[2] During 1932-33, a curriculum experiment was made in one of the schools in Durg District. Here more stress was laid on hand-work, and the instruction was brought into closer relation with every-day life of villages.[3] During 1934-35, a new syllabus for physical education was introduced in all the primary schools of Durg District. Special courses for training teachers were also held at Durg.[5]

The percentage of pupils to children of school-going age has always been appallingly low. For instance, in 1909-10, there were 10,108 boys in primary schools. This worked out to 22.6 per cent of the children of school-going age. Over a quarter century later, in 1936-37, the total number of boys in primary schools was still 10,958 only. The percentage of passes in Primary Certificate Examination was satisfactory. During 1936-37, about 66.2 per cent of the students that appeared passed the examination, as gainst 52.9 per cent in 1931-32.[4]

The state of primary education in the four Feudatory States of Kawardha, Khairagarh, Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan is reviewed hereunder.

Kawardha

In 1909, the State had 14 primary schools 2 of which were exclusively for girls. The total expenditure on school education in 1930 amounted to Rs. 12,089 as against Rs. 9,251 in 1922.

Khairagarh

There were 21 primary schools in the State in 1906. 35 in 1930, including 3 girls' schools. The expenditure on education as a whole amounted to Rs. 39,196 in 1930, as against Rs. 35,557 in 1922.

1 C. P. Education Report, 1932-33, p. 26.
2 Ibid, 1932-33. p. 39.
3 Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazeetter, p. 165.
4 Ibid
5 Ibid, 1935, p. 36.

Rajnandgaon

In 1909, there were 32 primary schools in the State. including one girls' school, and a Mission School for boys. In addition, there were 34 feeder-classes, maintained by private subscription. By the year 1931, the number of these schools increased to 84, including 7 girls' schools. During the year, the State spent Rs. 80,873 on education, the largest amongst the Feudatory States.

Chhuikhadan

As has already been mentioned earlier, Chhuikhadan has been educating the largest percentage of children. In 1909, there were 11 rural schools of primary standard in the State.[1] The progress of education in this State was tardy. From Rs. 53,54 in 1921, the State expenditure on education increased to Rs. 8,536 in 1931.

Education Since Independence

Aftee 1947, local bodies got increased grants, ranging from 50 to 100 per cent of the expenditure, enabling them to improve pay-scale and allowances of teachers, and provide such facilities as Provident Fund Scheme, etc. Janapada Sabhas, which replaced the District Councils, took over primary schools in 1948. The year 1950 marked an epock-making event when the Indian Constitution laid down that all children below 14 years should get free and compulsory primary education.

In 1950-51, the District had 448 primary schools, educating 75,852 boys and 2,213 girls, and employing 512 trained and 664 untrained teachers. The expenditure during this year on primary education amounted to Rs. 8,36,549.

During 1960-61, these two percentages stood at about 82 per cent and 88, respectively. By this time, the number of primary schools had increased to 1,2?6 and those of the boy and girl students to 70,588 and 25,145 respectively. The teachers employed too, increased to 2,869.

The following table shows the growth of primary education in the District during the last five years :—

Year	No. of Schools		No. of Students		No. of Teachers		Expenditure (Rs.)
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Trained	Untrained	
1965-66	1,701	135	1,07,560	48,218	2,935	1,749	57,36,885
1966-67	1,853	135	1,08,273	48,458	3,111	2,071	91,46'068
1967-68	1,801	132	1,16 620	58,278	2,987	1,401	87,24,342
1968-69	1,804	132	1,23,340	61,641	3,324	891	85,26,653
1969-70	1,816	132	1,25,366	64,560	3,430	937	91,04,669

1 Chhattisgarh Feudatory State Gazetter, p. 144.

Compulsory Primary Education

Compulsory primary education was introduced under the Central Provinces and Berar Primary Education Act of 1920, on 1st July, 1930, within the jurisdiction of Durg Municipal Council. The compulsion was confined to boys of the age-group of 6 to 14. Later, in 1956, the Act was replaced by the Madhya Pradesh Compulsory Primary Education Act. In 1962, Primary Education Act was enacted for the whole of Madhya Pradesh. The following table shows the growth of compulsory primary education in Durg District.—

Year	No. of Institutions in which Compulsion was Introduced.	No. of Students.	No. of Teachers.	Expenditure In Rupees.
1930-31	5	584	20	6,550
1940-41	5	908	29	21.506
1950-51	6	1,202	38	43,329
1960-61	10	2,494	67	62,805
1964-65	11	3,451	92	24,503

The percentage of boys enrolled under compulsion, to total estimated number of children was 92 per cent in 1962-63, as against 86 in the previous year.

On voluntary basis, the compulsory primary education for children of the age-group of 6-11 was introduced in Gunderdehi Block, in Durg Tahsil, in 1959-60. The number of institutions under this scheme was 113 in 1960-61 with an enrolment of 8,750 students. They were taught by 70 teachers in 1960-61. For the execution and proper supervision of free and compulsory primary education, two Assistant District Inspectors of Schools were provided in Durg. Their number increased to five in 1964-55.

Middle School Education

Earlier, middle schools were of two types—Vernacular and Anglo-Vernacular. Vernacular middle schools comprised classes V, VI and VII. These being in conjunction with primary schools were under the same head-master, managed by local authorities. Their function was to provide inexpensive education. But students taking courses in these, could read neither English nor English was introduced in these schools, as an optional subject, at a later stage.

Anglo-Vernacular middle schools comprised classes V to VIII, and were preparatory to high schools. English was a compulsory subject of the curricu-

lum in these schools. There were five vernacular middle shools in Durg District in 1937-38, with 1,288 pupils. The schools themselves were no longer popular in the 'forties, as courses in them did not lead the students to take up higher education.

The following table depicts the progress of the middle school education, so far as their number, scholars and teachers are concerned.—

Year	Schools		Scholars		Teachers	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Males	Females
1946-47	29	—	1,122	66	77	—
1950-51	30	—	5,676	302	259	—
1955-56	44	—	7,032	N.A.	281	—
1960-61	148	3	24,421	4,086	625	—
1964-65	287	21	35,901	7,713	1,357	167

Consistent progress in middle school education after 1947, could be attributed to the untiring efforts of the Government in the post-Independence period. The scheme of conversion of schools into basic type was included in the Second and Third Five Year Plans. As such, there was some trend in the 'fifties to convert primary and middle schools into junior and senior basic schools, respectively.

The following table shows the progress of middle school education in the District during the last five years:—

Year	No. of Schools		No. of Students		No. of Teachers				Expenditure.
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Trained		Untrained		
					Male	Female	Male	Female	(Rs.)
1965-66	281	23	38,213	8,657	1,051	71	666	32	26,12,733
1966-67	313	30	39,343	8,854	1,105	111	563	35	35,33,570
1967-68	302	31	30.554	10,683	823	123	524	49	24,68,715
1968-69	312	31	33,438	12,618	1,219	159	323	4	28,97,797
1969-70	312	31	33,998	13,279	1,272	184	375	3	30,30,381

Basic Education

Basic education in the District is of recent origin. The roots of basic education could be traced, in Vidyamandir Scheme. The concept of basic education envisages organic integration of the skill of the intellect and the skill of the hand. In keeping with this concept, a syllabus was introduced in 1950

in primary, middle and higher secondary schools. Craft formed a basic part of the curriculum under this scheme. Again, basic schools were of two categories—senior and junior. Senior basic schools, which offer a course of eight years, follow the syllabus of Hindustan Talimi Sangh, while the junior basic schools which offer a five-year course, follow what is known as integrated syllabus. In 1960-61, there were 50 schools of each category in the District. Of these, the two senior bacic schools at Balod and Dhamdha were residential schools. Spinning was the craft taught in these schools, though agriculture was also introduced as one of the subjects in the Balod School. Integrated syllabi were introduced in this State from the year 1957-58. In view of this the conversion of primary and middle schools into junior and senior basic schools, respectively, was not stressed. The table below shows the progress of basic education in the District from 1961-62 to 1969-70.—

Year	Junior Basic Education				
	No. of Schools	Students		Teachers	
		Boys	Girls	Males	Females
1961-62	55	4,793	1,088	148	5
1962-63	56	5,811	1,370	179	24
1963-64	56	5,883	1,437	249	27
1964-65	56	5,921	1,389	249	27
1965-66	56	5,940	1.420	249	27
1967-68	59	7,573	3,120	283	39
1968-69	59	8,713	3,835	302	46
1969-70	59	8,877	4,040	311	55

Year	Senior Basic Education				
	No. of Schools	Students		Teachers	
		Boys	Girls	Males	Females
1961-62	50	9,930	1,436	396	11
1962-63	46	9,141	1,335	399	11
1963-64	46	12,033	1,010	399	11
1964-65	46	12,132	907	399	11
1965-66	46	12,155	934	399	11
1967-68	46	13,125	1,433	420	—
1968-69	46	15,389	2,058	504	—
1969-70	55	16,103	2,242	515	—

Of the 56 junior basic schools in the District in 1965-66 academic session, 52 schools were under the management of Janapadasabhas, while two each were managed by the Government and the private bodies. Similarly, 41 senior basic schools were under the management of Janapada Sabhas, while 5 were managed by the Government.

Secondary Education

In 1909, the English Middle School at Rajnandgaon, was raised to a high school. In 1900, the English Middle School, Khairagarh, was raised to the status of a high school.

It had been the policy of the Government to maintain one government high school as model in each district of the former Central Provinces and Berar. Other high schools were managed by private organisations and were aided by the Government. High schools comprised classes IX to XI, and prepared pupils for the High School Certificate Examination. Accordingly a Government High School was senctioned for Durg in 1925-26.

Prior to 1922-23, the final examination of the high school course was the *Matriculation Examination, and it was conducted by the Calcutta University* and then by the University of Allahabad, to which institutions of the Central Provinces were affiliated. Later, the circumstances paved the way to the creation of Central Provinces High School Examination Board, on 24th September, 1923. Prior to 1925, English was the only medium of the High School Examination, but in that year, candidates were given the choice to offer English, Urdu, Hindi or Marathi as the medium, in accordance with the recommendations of the Curricula Committee of 1921.

Later, the High School Board revised the curriculum on the basis of the recommendations of the Mc Fadyen Committee (appointed in 1928). The first examination according to the new curriculum was held in 1936. The new subjects introduced were Botany, Zoology, Agriculture, Wood-work, Physiology, Hygiene, Civics, Painting, Music and Art, and Needle-Work.[1] The revised syllabus prepared by Dr. V.S. Jha was introduced in 1950.

In 1951, in pursuance of Mudaliar Commission's recommendations, the Madhya Pradesh Government introduced the diversified curricula in secondary schools, and started converting the highschools into higher secondary schools, multipurpose higher secondary schools, consisting of classes IX to XI. It was adopted uniformly after the new Secondary Education Act came into force with effect from 28th April, 1959.

The number of high schools in 1947 was two, which increased to five in 1951. The position improved further in the succeeding years, and the table below gives fuller details of high, higher and multipurpose higher secondary schools alongwith figures of scholars and teachers.—

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1 C.P. Education Report for the quinquennium ending 31st March, 1937, pp. 29-31.

Year 1	No. of Institutions Boys 2	Girls 3	No. of Students Boys 4	Girls 5	No. of Teachers Males 6	Females 7
1946-47	2	—	213	18	31	—
1950-51	4	—	1,688	144	34	4
1955-56	—	—	3,309	242	—	—
1960-61	27	3	8,867	1,607	402	71
1964-65	56	5	16,884	4,007	705	133

Collegiate Education

Government Arts and Science College, Durg

The first college in the District was established on 2nd August, 1958. Until 1963-64, all colleges except music institutions in the District were affiliated to Saugar University, Sagar. But consequent upon the establishment of Ravi Shankar University at Raipur, in 1964-65, the affiliations were transferred to it. The college offers English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Political Science, Economics and History as the subjects upto B. A. standard, while Physics, Botany, Zoology, Chemistry and Mathematics are the subjects a student could offer upto B. Sc. standard. In 1964-65, the college also started postgraduate classes in Physics and Chemistry. The Faculty-wise strength of students and teachers in the college, from 1960-61 to 1969-70, is given in the table below.—

Year	Arts Faculty Boys	Girls	Science Faculty Boys	Girls	Total	No. of Teachers
1960-61	66	20	108	24	218	19
1961-62	69	22	157	24	272	22
1962-63	274	38	326	32	670	28
1963-64	382	48	321	63	814	29
1964-65	341	51	406	62	860	29
1965-66	311	59	559	89	1,018	37
1966-67	268	56	708	100	1,132	38
1967-68	394	39	741	123	1,297	43
1968-69	407	50	808	445	1,710	44
1969-70	556	58	968	204	1,786	44

The college, library had 4,410 books on its shelves in 1965. But no hostel is attached to the college. In 1961-62, National Cadet Corps was introduced in the college on optional basis. But from 1964-65 onward, it was made compulsory to all able-bodied boy students. In that year there were 600 cadets, enrolled in three companies under three N. C. C. officers. Ample opportunities exist in the college for extra-curricular activities, including games.

Digvijay Mahavidyalaya, Rajnandgaon

There are two private colleges at Rajnandgaon, one of which is a women' college. The Digvijay Arts and Science college, a co-educational institution, was started in July, 1957 by pooling together the generous contributions of the citizens of Rajnandgaon. In 1959-60, the college conducted classes only in Arts and Commerce faculties, but in the following year, classes of other faculties, viz., Law and Science were also started. There were in all 209 students in the college 1959-60, of whom 62 were in the Commerce faculty. The strength of the college was 1122 in 1970-71. There were 18 teachers in the college in 1960-61, as against 33 in 1970-71. Likewise, there has been a constant increase in the amount of expenditure on the college. In 1969-70 the expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,64,077. Besides 171 Backward Class and Tribal students were awarded scholarships. Post- graduate classes in Arts have also been introduced in the college since 1966-67.

Kalyan Arts and-Commerce College, Bhilainagar

The Chhattisgarh Kalyan Samiti of Bhilai Steel Plant employees, established this college in July, 1963. The Bhilai Steel Plant authorities donated 14 acres of land for the construction of a habitat of its own. The college imparts instructions in Arts and Commerce subjects, leading to a degree. The strength of students was 6328 in 1969-70. Teaching-staff numbered 12 in 1969-70. During the same year, the college spent Rs. 1.12 lakhs against Rs. 21.707 in 1963-64.

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial College, Dongargarh

Managed by Dongargarh Shiksha Mandal, this college was established in July, 1964, and dedicated to the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru. Donations were collected from the public, and the Government also came forward with a maintenance grant of Rs. 10,000 on ad hoc basis, in the year 1966-67. The instruction is imparted upto degree standards. The strength of students, was 72 in 1963-64, and 146 in 1969-70. Taught by nine teachers, the college is equipped with a library, consising of about 2,000 books.

Jawaharlal Nehru Science College, Bemetara

Yet another college, dedicated to the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru emerged at Bemetara in 1965-66 and was founded by Bemetara Shiksha Samiti. Donations from the Janapada Sabha enabled the Samiti to set up and equip-laboratories of various science departments. In 1969-70 Arts classes were also started in the college. The number of students and teachers, in 1969-70 were 175 and 10, respectively. A sum of Rs. 73,·10 was spent on the college during 1966-67. It is equipped with a small library, containing about 1,500 books.

Kamla Devi Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Rajnandgaon

An exclusively girls' college, the first of its kind in the District, it was established at Rajnandgaon by the Nari Shiksha Samiti, in the year 1963.

Named after the donor Smt. Kamla Devi Rathi, who donated a building for the college, it started with 10 students on the rolls in 1963. The strength has since gone to 30 in 1966-67. The college offers courses in Home Science, Psychology, Hindi literature, Music and Political Science as optional subjects upto B.A. standard. There were six teachers during 1966-67. Till 1966-67, the college spent about Rs. 90,000 against grants-in-aid of Rs. 24,162 from the Government and Rs. 6,000 from the Municipal Committee.

Seth R.C.S. Law and Commerce College, Durg

Started as a Law College in the year 1962-63, the college is being run by the District Education Society. In the year 1963-64, faculty of commerce was also started, in which the number of students in the following year was 43. The streugh of students and teachers in the Arts and Commerce faculties of the college during the year 1969-70, was 248 and 9 respectively.

The college has been named after Seth Ratanchand Suraha who donated a sum of Rs. 51,000 for the construction of the college building. The college received Rs 8,745 as grant-in-aid from the Madhya Pradesh Government during the year 1966-67.

TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Technical Education

The District is lagging behind in technical education. There are only a few technical schools and no college. At present there exist three technical institutions in the District, viz., Government Polytechnic, Durg, Government Secondary and Technical School, Khairagarh, and Industrial Training School, Bhilai.

Government Polytechnic, Durg

Opened in July, 1962, with an enrolment of 20 students each in Civil and Electrical branches the Polytechnic provides courses of two-and-half years, divided into five semesters, each semester lasting for about five months. The candidates who are eligible for admission should have passed Higher Secondary School Certificate Examination or equivalent thereof The Polytechnic offers courses leading to a diploma of Madhya Pradesh Board of Technical Education. The strength of students and teachers is given below.—

Year	Civil	Mechanical	Electrical	Metallurgical	No. of Teachers
1962-63	20	—	20	—	10
1963-64	40	35	37	25	13
1964-65	65	60	63	48	21
1965-66	65	89	68	62	18
1966-67	71	123	68	62	23
1967-68	74	91	77	56	26
1968-69	42	81	57	55	27
1969-70	48	88	61	52	28

The Polytechnic is equipped with a library containing 1,978 books, and one hostel attached to the institution. National Cadet Corps was introduced in 1963-64, and had a strength of 90 cadets in 1965-66.

Government Secondary Technical School, Khairagarh

Established as a Vocational High School in 1951, the school was rechristened as Junior Technical School in 1961, and then as Government Secondary Technical School in 1963-64. It imparts training in smithy and sheet metal trades. Almost all the students of the school are awarded stipends at the rate of Rs. 240 each per annum. Against an intake capacity of 90, the school had on its rolls 135 students in 1964-65, which decreased to 41 in 1970-71. The expenditure of the school in 1970-71 was Rs. 1,41,050. The school is housed in a commodius building. The medium of instruction is Hindi.

Bhilai Technical Training Institute, Bhilai

Recognising the importance of trained personnel, the Hindustan Steel Ltd. hastened to establish a training institute at Bhilai, which is an integral part of Bhilai Steel Works. It is designed to train Graduate Apprentices, Operative Trainees and Artisan Trainees, to cater to the needs of the Bhilai Steel Works. The Graduate Apprentice training is for two years' duration, in which it is sought to equip them in theory and Steel-Plant practices of responsibility in operation, production, planning, maintenance and design. The training period for Operative Trainees is 18 months, for Artisan Trainees it varies from 6 months to 3 and 4 years. During the period of training, the trainees are given stipends at different rates. All the trainees are provided with accommodation in the hostels, except for short-term Apprentices, at nominal rates. The training facilities are also extended to other concerns, for which training charges are levied.

Kalyan Law College, Bhilainagar

The Chhattisgarh Kalyan Samiti opened this college in July, 1962 with the active co-operation of Bharat Sewak Samaj. During the year 1963-64, there were 52 students on the rolls of the college which increased to 121 in 1170-71. In July, 1963, owing to the introduction of Arts and Commerce sections, the Law College came to be known as Kalyan Arts, Commerce and Law College.

Apart from this two more colleges in the District offer courses in the subjects leading to LL. B. The Digvijay College, Rajnandgaon had 35 students in law faculty in the year 1960-61, the number increased to 60 in 1966-67. Seth R. C. S. Law and Commerce College, Durg, which is a private institution, also offers courses in legal studies. It enrolled 66 students in 1962-63. In 1966-67, their number increased to 87, The expenditure of this institution was Rs. 3,185 in the 1963-64.

Teachers' Training Institute

In 1965-66, there were three basic training Institutes in the District, situated at Bemetara, Khairagarh and Dongargarh. All the three are Government institutions.

The Government Girls' Basic Training Institute, Khairagarh

Opened on 2nd October, 1960, as purely a boys, institution, the school was converted into a co-educational institution, in 1961, with 100 students on the rolls. But again in 1963-64, it was restricted to girl-trainees, and girls joined the institute. Two refreshers courses were also conducted in the institute during the year 1965 and 1966. The institute now is a co-educational one, and imparts instruction in subjects like Educational Psychology, Principles of Education, School Organisation, Hindi, Social Studies, General Science and Mathematics, Crafts, *Shala Samudayik Vikas*, etc. The number of students and teachers, during the year 1970-71, were 132 and 8, respectively. The institute is equipped with a library and two hostels, one each for boys and girls.

Government Basic Training Institute, Bemetara

The institute was started on 28th September,1959, as an aided institution. In 1962, it was taken over by the State Government. After the adoption of the syllabus prescribed by the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh, in 1965, the period of training was extended from one to two years. The in-take capacity has also been increased to 125 students. The actual number of students was 62 in 1965-66. The institute is equipped with a library and a hostel.

The Basic Training Institute, Dongargarh

The institute owes its existence to Lok sabha, which was started in 1948, and later converted into a Normal School in 1954. The institution was re-christened as Government Basic Training Institute in November, 1963. The institute seeks to train students in regular subjects, as also in various useful crafts, agriculture being compulsory for all trainees. About 60 acres of land is in possession of the institute, on which rice is mainly produced.

Apart from regular teacher-candidates, the institute trained stipendiary trainees for Teachers' Training Certificate Examination. During the year 1960-61, a sum of Rs. 38,329 to boys and Rs. 2,995 to girls was awarded to the students as stipend. The number of students again rose to 136 in 1970-71, taught by 12 teachers. All of them are provided with hostel facilities.

SCHOOL FOR CULTIVATION OF FINE ARTS

Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalay, Khairagarh

The District enjoys the unique privilege of having a University, dedicated to teaching of vocal and instrumental music and dance. This the is first of its kind

in India. Khairagarh rightly claims the honour because it has been for decades a centre of fine arts under the patronage and care of successive rulers of the State. The late Raja Kamal Narain Singh was a great connoisseur and lover of arts. He was patron of both, instrumental and vocal music, dancing, and was himself a master of *Pakhawaj*. The present University is a growth from the Indira Sangit Vidyalaya, established in 1944, by Rani Padmawati Devi in memory of her deceased second daughter, princess Indira Devi. The then Chief Minister, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shaukla, who saw the Institute, realising its great potentialities, not only continued it but developed it as an Academy in July, 1956.

The University was established by the Madya Pradesh Act XIX of 1956. The students are taught to play on such instruments as *sitar*, *violin*, *dilruba*, *sarangi*, *israj*, flute, *sarod*, *tabla* and *pakhawaj*. It confers degrees of *Vid* (B. Mus.) *Vid-Hons* (B. Mus., Hons) *Kovid* (M. Mus.), and *Sangeetacharaya* (D. Mus.) in *Sangeet* and *Nritya*.

There is a separate research department in the University, opened in 1963, guiding as well as conducting research. Among the research projects the department has undertaken the publication of *Shivamangalam*, an opera, written by Dr. S.N. Ratanjanakar and *Bharat Bhasyam* (Vol. I), based on an old manuscript of the llth century. When completed, the entire work will run into five volumes. The department was shortly to publish *Bhatkhande Smriti Granth*, to celebrate the birth centenary of the great musician.

The University has a well-equipped library with volumes on both Indian and Western music, paintings and other arts. Two hostels are attached to the University. The number of students in 1969-70, decreased to 99. The students were taught by 10 teachers in 1965-66. During the year 1964-65, the University expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,22,929 against an income of Rs. 1,22,668.

ORIENTAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Khairagarh and Kawardha, the two former Feudatory States, had a Sanskrit school each right from the beginning of this century. The former rulers of these States patronised these institutions by giving liberal scholarships, and offering the students free boarding and lodging facilities. On the merger of the Feudatory States into the Indian Union, the management of these institutions passed into the hands of the local bodies of the places. The local bodies were unable to offer the same generous facilities, lack of funds being the main stumbling block. A Sanskrit School was also started at Dhamdha in 1947, but it had to be closed in the year 1952-53, both for want of funds and competent staff.

In 1960-61, there were three schools situated at Kawardha, Khairagarh and Rajnandgaon. All the schools had one teacher in each. The expenditure too,

on these was comparatively meagre. The next year saw the closure of two schools at Kawardha and Rajnandgaon, as not many students were forthcoming to join the institutions. But another private school sprang up in the District during the year. Maintained at a cost of Rs. 6,203, these schools had on their rolls 56 students during the year 1961-62.

At present, Sanskrit is taught as a compulsory subject from class V to VIII to all those students whose mother-tongue is Hindi. Even at the higher secondary stage, provision for the teaching of the language exists.

ADULT LITERACY AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

The concept of adult education originated even during the British days. With the advent of Independence, the concept of adult education has widened. It now includes social education too, so that the recipients of this training could lead a productive civic life. The District Panchayats and Social Welfare Officer organises adult literacy classes and reading-rooms, etc. As a rule, primary school teachers are appointed as part-time teachers in the adult education centres on a salary of Rs. 10 per month.

During 1955-56, 234 adult literacy classes were organised. Attending them were 4,680 scholars, of whom 1,165 were made literate. In 1960-61, however, 109 classes were functioning educating 1,629 adults. Of them, 467 were made literate. In 1964-65 there were8 8 classes, educating 2,034 adults in that year. Progress of adult education during the years 1955-56, to 1964-65 is given in the following table.—

Year	No. of Literacy Classes	No. of Scholars		No. made Literate	No. of Teachers	Total Expenditure (Rs.)
		Males	Females			
1955-56	234	4 540	140	1.165	234	22,033
1960-61	107	1,605	24	449	109	4,085
1961-62	60	1,160	60	594	60	7,369
1962-63	70	1,120	180	674	70	7,218
1963-64	50	997	—	685	50	6,120
1964-65	88	1,639	395	1,123	88	5,636

Social education is also imparted through recreational and cultural activities, and an effective means of mass-education, viz.. cinema-shows has done much in this behalf. In the year 1966, cinema-shows numbering 84 were organised. Kalapathak programmes were also directed towards this end. During 1966, programmes numbering 170 were arranged by these cultural squads. To arrest the relapsing of neo-literates into illiteracy, the scheme of circulating libraries was also introduced in the District. About 280 such centres were being run in Durg in 1964-65. The Department of Social Welfare also supplied about 119 radio-sets under the Community Listening Programme. These

are supplied to Gram Panchayats which bear its expenditure. In the Tribal Areas, eight radio-centres were also being run at government cost.

CULTURAL LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

In order to promote Hindi language and literature, a society called Hindi Sahitya Samiti was founded in Durg in 1935. With the location of the Steel Plants at Bhilai, a Hindi Sahitya Parishad also came into being there. Between 1957 and 1963, a number of cultural and literary societies have sprung up at Bhilai. They are Bhilai Lalit Kala Kendra, Bhilai Mahila Samaj, Utkal Sanskritik Parishad, Bhilai Bhajan Samaj, Milan Sangh, Bangiya Parishad, Andhra Sahity Samiti, Malayalam Granthshala, Bhilai Hindi Sahitya Parishan, Bhilai Sanskritik Vikas Mandal, Experimental Theatre, the Maharashtra Mandal, Pashchima Palli, Jain Milan, Tamil Mandiam, Kannada Sangh, Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Bhagini Mandal, Kerala Arts and Sports Association, Music Circle and Sur Jhankar.

The largest of this is the Mahila Samaj, Bhilainagar with a membership of more than 750, It runs two kindergarten schools, and an Udyog Kendra (Handi-Crafts Centre), where training in knitting and tailoring crafts is imparted.

The management of the Steel Plant at Bhilai awards prizes for the best adjudged drama, actor, actress, etc., to infuse a healthy competition. The Sports and Recreation Council also has set up a number of clubs under its auspices e.g., the Drama Club, Literary Club, Music Club, Dance Club and Arts Club.

At Rajnandgaon, the Sharada Sangeet Samiti was established in 1962. Its main objective is to teach fine arts, such as music and dance without charging any fee. The other society of the place, Saraswati Kala Mandir, was established in 1957, with a view to promoting cultural and literary activities in the town. Kasturba Mahila Mandal was established on 10th December, 1959. With a membership of 40, the society arranges classes in tailoring and fine arts, besides putting up cultural shows occasionally. Established in 1962, the Nari Siksha Samiti aims at providing social, cultural and educational activities, especially among women of the town. On 17th April, 1964, the Samiti established Kamala Devi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, where classes in music and dancing are held. It is not out of place to mention here, that the Samiti is also running the Kamala Devi Mahila Mahavidyalaya (affiliated to Ravi Shankar University, Raipur). Details of this institution are given elsewhere.

With the object of creating a desire, and for developing a taste for the study of science, a Science Fair is being organised annually at Durg by the Government, since, 1965.

CULTURAL, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS

A detailed account of the periodicals published from the District is given in Chapter XVIII of this Volume. However, it may be stated here that the management of the Bhilai Steel Plant, brings out the *Technical Journal*, in order to disseminate information on technical matter. Meant for private circulation, this quarterly journal is being issued since April, 1964.

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

The former Feudatory States of Khairagarh and Rajnandgaon, were the first to have libraries of their own. The Khairagarh State Library was established in 1912-13. Now this library is being run by the Janapada Sabha and is known as Janapada Sarvodaya Pustakalaya. As reported in 1966, there were 3,500 books on its shelves. Rajnandgaon State Library was established in 1930. As reported in 1966, it has about 5,000 books, and is being managed by the local Municipality. In the year 1928-29, the Department of Education made a provision of Rs. 705, for each District Council towards the establishment of libraries. As a consequence, two village libraries were established at Balod and Bemetara

During the First Five-Year Plan, the State Government had initiated a scheme for the improvment of library services in all the districts. Accordingly, a District Library was established at Durg in March, 1965. The main object behind this scheme was to spread literacy,besides checking relapse into illiteracy of those who have attained a certain amount of educational standard.

The number of books in the District Library was 5,317 in 1965-66. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 10,080 in 1964-65- The District Library has a regular feeding of 500 exchangeable books from the Central Library. Jabalpur.

During 1955-56, two more private libraries were also established in the District. The Bhagwat Prasad Library, Arjunda and the Mahatma Gandhi Library, Dhamdha, receive aid for their maintenance from the Government.

As a part of the Social Education Scheme, the Directorate of Panchayats and Social Welfare is also running a number of library centres at the village and Block levels. They are regularly fed with circulating-boxes containing books of rural interest. About 280 such centres were functioning in the District in 1964-65. Nagar Bharat Sevak Samaj, Library Rajnandgaon was established in 1955. Its vachanalaya is attended by about 4000 readers every year.

Nagar Bharat Sewak Samaj, Pustakalaya and Vachanalaya, Rajnandgaon

This voluntary social service organisation, affiliated to the District Branch of the Bharat Sewak Samaj, was established in the town in 1955. With the

aim of cultivating the habit of reading among the people this Samaj runs a library and a reading room. The strength of members of the library is about 60. Nearly 4,000 persons annually take advantage of these facilities.

Men of Letters

The literary history of this District is hardly a century old. It is surprising that in spite of the fact that though the classic *Madhavanal Kam Kandala* derived inspiration from Dongargarh in the past, it left no literary trail behind. Historical factors could perhaps explain the cultural poverty of the District. This region came under the sway of Gond feudatories who did not boast of much literacy. Geographically this area was much removed from Ratanpur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, and was naturally deprived of the patronage of the royal court. Even Kawardha, and Dhamdha, which were the religious centres of Kabirpanth, yield no record of literary activity. Thus, it is only the Bhartendu Era which may be called the precursor of literary writing in the District.

Khairagarh rulers seem to have been patrons of the Muses. In the court of Khairagarh State, there were 9 *Charan* poets namely, Dalram, Dalvir, Manik, Harinath, Dhansing, Bisahu, Jaymag, Maya and Kamal. Lal Pradumnasingh was a person of literary taste. He wrote '*Nagavansha*' a history of the Khairagarh dynasty. Another book of his *Darshan* introduces the readers to the six schools of Indian philosophy. Raja Kamal Narayan Singh, the twenty-second ruler was a poet. Baba Shambhu Giri and Jai Govind were reputed to have composed devotional poetry. Raja Fateh Sing had the good fortune to have Umrao Baxi in the state service. Umrao Baxi was a versatile writer, *Fateh Vinod, Fateh Vilas, Rasleela, Romayan Natak, Satsai Teeka, Kayya Prabodh* and a few translation works were written by him. Padumlal Punnalal Baxi is among the highest in the domain of letters in the Hindi World. His prolific writing embraces the fields of journalism, poetry, short-story, novel, criticism and essay and has a distinctive flavour of its own. *Jhalmala, Vishwa Sahitya, Shatadal, Hindi Sahitya Vimarsh, Kuchh, Aur Kuchh, Bikhare Panne*, etc., are his well-known works. Kapil Nath Bhatt is an illustrious descendant of the 9 famed *Charan* poets of earlier times. Bal Shastri Jha compiled the dynastic history of Khairagarh in his *Dharma-vansh*. Gajaraj was only a poet but well-versed in poetics.

Ganga Prasad Agnihotri, Diwan of Chhuikhadan, wrote prose and poetry, and created a literary atmosphere in the State. Dhanulal Shrivastava wrote *Ashtarajya Ambhoj*, a Hindi gazetteer of Chhattisgarh states. Other literary figures of Chhuikhadan State are Raja Laxmandas, Ramarao, Kushalram, Siyaram, Ramgulam Jhaman, Daduram, Bhimsen, Chaturanan Das, Gopinath, Madhuman Das, Manmohan Kishordas, Shivacharan Rai and Din Dayal.

Rajnandgaon has been the most important centre of literary activities. Dau

Krishna Kishor Das wrote his voluminous *Radha-Krishna Chandrika* in 1864 A.D Dau Govardhan Das was also a devotee of Krishna and wrote *Shri Hari Bhakti Prakashika* *Bal Vinay*. Parmanand Suhane brought out his twin publications *Nakha Shikha Hajara* and *Shada Ritu Hajara*. Kazi Ashraf Mahmud, now in Pakistan, wrote on Krishna Bhakti and Guru Bhakti. Sarang Pani Mudaliar brought out the first weekly in Chhattisgarh from his Balaram Press. Bhagwan Das Sirothia was a journalist of repute and published his *Sirothia Santati*.

Narayan Prasad Mishra of Rajnandgaon was a respected Hindi-lover. He extended patronage to Shital Prasad, author of *Siya Swayamvar*, Dr. Baldeo Prasad Mishra pioneered the cause of Hindi in University education in Madhya Pradesh. His well-known creations are *Tulsi Darshan*, *Saket Satra*, *Jeevan Sangeet*, *Bharatiya Sanskriti*, etc. He has been an administrator, social worker and an evangelist, expounding the message of the *Ramayana* on a country-wide platform.

Rajnandgaon State had the honour of nurturing quite a few other men of letters. Reverend Tilak wrote poetry in English, Marathi and also in Hindi. Kunj Biharilal Choube was a poet of great promise but he proved the dictum 'those whom gods love die young.' He wrote poetry in Hindi as well as in Chhattisgarhi dialect. Rajulal Sharma is an old literary figure. Surendra Nath Thakur compiled a fine law dictionary in Hindi. Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh was a poet of All-India fame and a critic. He was among the first few harbingers of the new powerful trend in poetry. His well-known publications are *Nai Kavita Ka Atmasangharsha*, *Kamayani Ek Punarvichar*, *Chand Ka Muh Tedha Hai*, etc. Meghnath Kanoje, Sharad Gupta, Ramvishal Sharma, Malaya and Ganesh Khare are college teachers known for their literary writings.

Kanhai Sao Tamrakar of Durg was a poet, knowing Hindi, Sanskrit and Persian. Raghubar Dayal, Bhishmalal Mishra and Vanamali wrote poetry. Dauuday Prasad was an old reputed writer and journalist. Dwarakanath Tiwari, lawyer by profession, wrote on religious themes. Koduram Dalit used the twin media of Hindi and Chhattisgarhi for his humorous writing. Kapilnath Brahma Bhat was a keen journalist.

Radhika Raman Dube is a lyricist of Harioudh school. Dau Ghanshyam Singh Gupta has done some serious writing on social and political themes. Shrimati Vidyavati 'Malavika' is a well-educated lady writing voluminously. Her publications are *Budhu Archana*, *Poornima*, *Kamana*, *Shraddha ke Phool*, *Bouddha Kala Kratiyan*, *Adarsh Bouddha Mahilayen* and *Buddha Charitavali*. Also belonging to Durg is the well-known figure of Kishor Sahu of cine-world, who has taken to the writing of fine Hindi prose.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Prior to the British rule in India, *Ayurvedic* and *Unani* systems of medicine were being practised in this region. *Vaidyas* and *Hakims*, the practitioners of these systems of medicine, respectively, used to be patronized by the Ruling Chiefs of States, Zamindars and Landlords. They concentrated for practising their healing arts in and around the capitals of different feudatory states and, were found mostly in the urban areas. Knowledge of medicinal qualities of different plants and herbs growing in forests and around the villages was also wide-spread and was used with advantage.

Durg then being a Tahsil place of Raipur District was to get the benefit of a charitable dispensary only in the late 'seventies of the last century. The Dispensary was under the charge of a Hospital Assistant. The management of the charitable dispensary was entrusted to a Dispensary Committee which consisted of Civil Officers and prominent men of the locality. Medicines and medical treatment were given free of cost; facilities for indoor treatment were not available, but accommodation was given to very serious and deserving cases in the Dispensary building itself. The cost of maintenance of the Dispensary was partly met by private subscriptions and the remainder by the Government. The officer who inspected the jails was also responsible for the inspection of the charitable Dispensary.

Medical facilities were also provided by ruling chiefs of Zamindari and Feudatary States. The Chief of the former Nandgaon State maintained "an excellent dispensary, which is visited not only by the people of his own State and by numerous travellers along the Nagpur and Raipur road, but by residents of the north-eastern Zamindaries of the Chanda district."[1] In 1883 the Chief of Chhuikhadan had indigenous medicines prepared by himself and distributed gratis. The annual expenses on this score amounted to about Rs. 1,200. The medicines were considered efficacious; and patients even came from the Khalsa and received medical relief.[2]

On the 1st of April, 1885 the management of dispensaries was transferred to the Local Bodies. The local Medical Officer was required to visit a certain number of villages and to see a prescribed number of vaccinations daily.

1 C.P. Administration Report, 1879-80, p. 9.
2 Ibid., 1883-84, p. 4.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century more dicpensaries were established in the District, some of them at the headquarters of the feudatory states.. In the British District in 1910 there were six dispensaries—two at Durg, including the Police Hospital, and one each at Bemetara, Gandai, Balod and Ambagarh Chowki. The Durg Main Dispensary provided accommodation for 15 indoor patients. A midwife attached to the Durg Main Dispensary looked after maternity cases there.

Dispensaries were established at Gunderdehi and Patan in the years 1912 and 1916, respectively. The Dispensary at Patan was constructed by the *Malguzar* and was handed over to the Dispensary Fund Committee.

In 1909 opeartion facilities were also provided in the dispensary at Rajnandgaon. A dispensary started functioning at Dongargaon since 1915. The opening of this Dispensary was caused by the sudden illness of the Rani of the then ruling Chief of Nandgaon, who was on a short visit to that village. The necessity of opening a dispensary was impressed upon her by her physician who was summoned there to be in attendance. In the same context another dispensary was opened at Rani Bada. It ceased to function subsequently.

The State of Khairagarh also had at its headquarters a hospital established sometime in the early years of the present century under the charge of a Chief Medical Officer. He was assisted by two Assistant Doctors (A.M.O.S.) and one Lady Doctor (W.A.M.O.). X-ray and surgical facilities were also provided in this hospital.

An allopathic dispensary appears to have been started in the erstwhile Chhuikadan State in the early years of the twentieth century. By 1925 this Dispensary developed into a fullfledged hospital headed by a retired army Medical Officer who was assisted by one Assistant Medical Officer. Consequent upon the merger of States, this institution was taken over by the State Government. A Health Officer was also attached to the hospital.

The Ruler of Kawardha State introduced well-planned medical and health facilities in his State in 1906. In that year the ruler, Raja Yadunath Singh, established a regular allopathic dispensary housed in the present Police Station building. This formed the nucleus of the present Silver Jubilee Hospital which was constructed through public contributions and State funds in 1936.

The second decade of the present century was noted for certain important events which included the establishment of the Central Provinces Medical Examination Board sometime between 1916 and 1916, and the enactment of the Central Provinces Medical Registration Act, 1919, put into operation in 1922. Also during this period (1919-1922) a small fee of one anna per day or six rupees per annum in the case of well-to-do patients were charged.

During the 'twenties a lady Doctor at one town in every district was provided where there were no separate women's hospitals. A dispensary established at Chhuria in 1925, functioned as a peripatetic dispensary for six months of a year and was placed under the charge of an Assistant Medical Officer who remained attached to the Main Hospital, Durg, for the remaining six months.

A system, known as Ticket System, of charging each new patient a fee of two pice except paupers had been in force from 1933 to 1935-36.

Though vaccination was not made compulsory in Durg, it was carried on throughout the District in the open season by a staff consisting of an Assistant Superintendent, 12 Vaccinators and one Apprentice Vaccinator. The ratio of primary vaccination in 1908-09 was 38.04 per thousand of population. Over 77 per cent of the children born and surviving to one year of age were vaccinated.

The village Sanitation Act, 1881 was not in force in any village of the District. However, sanitation was not neglected altogether. Sweepers were engaged at Dhamda, Arjunda, Patan and Bhilai in Durg Tahsil, Nawagarh, Darhi, Bemetara and Deokar in Bemetara Tahsil; and at Balod in Sanjeri Tahsil, under the Mukaddam Rules.

VITAL STATISTICS

Initially, in 1866-67 the work of collection of statistics was taken up by the Municipal Police in the urban areas and by the District Police and patwaris in the selected rural areas. However, lack of proper supervision and the vastness of area to be covered, especially in rural tracts, made a complete coverage impracticable and impossible. As such, the figures thus collected were apparently not very reliable.

In 1870 the Government of India issued a new set of registration forms. This was extended to all parts of a district. The agency for the collection of statistics and their record were the Police. The village *Kotwar* periodically visited his nearest station-house and reported all births and deaths that occurred in his village since his last visit. Proper instructions to the *Kotwar* and arrangements for immediate reporting ensured slightly greater accuracy in the figures collected in rural areas. In the urban areas the householder himself was responsible for reporting. Such figures were not free from defect. The importance of immediate reporting was, therefore, impressed upon the householder frequently. For the purpose of registration the whole area was divided into various circles. Each circle covered 52 villages, the average area being 202.9 sq. km.

From 1st January, 1920 the towns were required to publish weekly returns showing deaths and their causes. Deaths under one year were subdivided

into (1) upto one week (2) between one week and one month (3) one month to six months and (4) seven to twelve months. The registers maintained were subject to periodical checking by the revenue, medical and police officers, besides the vaccination staff.

Under the present set-up the Municipal Committees record the births and deaths in the urban areas and pass on the same to the Civil Surgeon. The vital events for rural areas are reported through the Police-Stations. The Civil Surgeon submits the same to the Director of Health Services, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The birth-rate for the period 1906 to 1930 mostly varied between 45 and 53 per thousand of population. During this period the birth-rate was recorded from 31 to 38 only in four years, i.e., 1919 to 1922. It, however, exceeded the limit of 53 per mille during the years 1908-1911, 1915 and 1917. The highest birth-rate during this period (59.78) was registered in 1910. From 1931 to 1941 the birth-rate varied from 44 to 48 per mille. From 1942 onwards the birth-rate showed a declining trend. Starting with 38.62 in 1942 the birth-rate came down to 31.65 in 1948. While the mean ratio of births per 1,000 population was 34.14 for the years 1944 to 1948, the birth-rate stood at 33.91 in 1949, urban 40.83 and rural 33.78. The birth-rate, however, rose to 37.05 per mille in 1951. Here again, in 1951, the urban rate of 41.10 exceeded the rural rate of 36.96. The years 1952 to 1955 recorded 38.71 to 42.20 per mille, showing again an upward trend.

In Durg District the death-rate on the other hand varied mostly between 30 and 41 per thousand of population during 1906 to 1930. The death-rate was lower than 30 per thousand only in two years during this period, i.e., 1909 and 1917, It considerably exceeded the limit of 41 in 1918, 1919 and 1921 recording 88.95, the highest, 55.63 and 58.72 per thousand, respectively. In 1918 there were in all 68,997 deaths, to which fever alone contributed 55,091. Similarly, in 1919 and 1921 cholera alone was responsible for 6,178 and 4,821 deaths. respectively. The death-rate from fever was also considerably high, i.e , 34.27 and 37.93 per thousand, respectively. From 1931 to 1947 the death-rate in Durg District varied between 30 and 40, twice falling to 29 39 and 27.62 per thousand in 1932 and 1933, respectively, and twice rising upto 48.00 and 44.38 in 1934 and 1941, respectively. In 1947 the death-rate recorded was 23.18 per thousand as against 24.74 per thousand of the previous year, while the mean ratio for the previous five years stood at 31.74. The death-rate, however, increased to 27.51 in 1951. though the mean ratio for the preceding five years declined to 30.57. Again, in 1951, higher death-rate was in the rural (27.57) than in the urban (24.70) area. The death-rates recorded in 1954 and 1955 were 26.56 and 26.64, respectively, as against 30.90 and 30.46 for 1952 and 1953.

The following Table will show the number of births and deaths in the District and their rate in recent years.

Year	Births Total	Birth rate per 1,000 population	Deaths total	Death rate per 1,000 population
1	2	3	4	5
1956	31,540	21.3	16,350	11.0
1960	44,784	30.2	16,169	10.9
1961	42,502	22.6	29,283	15.5
1962	45,025	23.9	28,813	15.3
1963	44,162	23.4	31,918	17.4
1964	29.691	15.6	27,577	14.6
1965	29.690	15.6	25,296	13.4

Causes of Mortality

Generally speaking the causes of mortality in Durg District are cholera, smallpox, plague, fever, tuberculosis, bowel complaints, injuries, suicides and others.

The mortality caused by various diseases from 1961 to 1965 was as under.

Year	Cholera	Small-pox	Plague	Fever	Dysentery	T B.	Injuries	Delivery	Others	Total
1961	—	10	—	1,972	816	150	274	18	26,043	29,293
1962	—	7	—	1,980	1,158	276	229	24	25,139	38,813
1963	—	975	—	4,408	1,495	897	42	18	24,083	31,918
1964	—	240	—	3,140	956	2,348	280	23	20,590	27,577
1965	—	91	—	2,167	49	58	203	18	22,710	25,296

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality in the District can be attributed to various causes, namely, prematurity, mal-nutrition chiefly owing to want of mothers' milk, diarrhoea, respiratory causes and fevers. Outbreaks of epidemics always played an important role in increasing the infant mortality. Smallpox alone has been responsible for many deaths. In 1948 Durg District recorded a mortality rate of 197.49 per 1,000 births. Compared to this the then Provincial rate was 209.74. But in 1951, Durg was one of the few districts in which the Provincial infant mortality rate of 193.96 was exceeded by the District rate of 205.41.

The year 1951 for Durg District was marked by highest mortality due to smallpox from amongst the 14 districts in which the epidemic prevailed in

that year. Infant mortality in rural areas in this year was 206.96 against 139.78 in urban areas. The mortality rates from 1960 to 1965 were as under.

Year	Live Births	Infants	Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000)
1960	45,345	N.A.	N.A.
1961	30,119	1,155	98.34
1962	15,407	3.218	208.86
1963	43,072	5,115	118.73
1964	29,683	118	3.97
1965	20,485	939	45.83

DISEASES COMMON TO THE DISTRICT

The diseases common to the District are cholera, smallpox, fever which included malaria, plague, tuberculosis, leprosy, bowel diseases, eye diseases and venereal diseases. The magnitude of their incidence in the District and the measures undertaken to check them are detailed below.

Cholera

The Chhattisgarh region of which Durg District forms part was notorious for the outbreak of Cholera in epidemic form since long. The District suffered from a severe outbreak of Cholera in 1906, claiming 1,051 lives or 1.67 per mille of the population. From 1906 to 1951 Cholera visited the District almost every year except 1918, 1922 and 1923. And during this period the number of deaths crossed the mark of 1,000 in 1908, 1913, 1915, 1919, 1921, 1934, 1935, 1941, 1942, 1944 and 1945. The highest number of deaths was recorded in 1919 when the epidemic took a toll of 6,173 lives (7.06 per thousand of population), followed by 4,821 in 1921. In 1913, 1934 and 1941 also the number of deaths was between 3,400 and 4,300. Virulence of the disease appears to have subsided from 1940 onwards and in 1951 it claimed only 232 lives. The only year after 1951 which witnessed a considerable severe attack of cholera was 1956, when 578 deaths were recorded.

Anti-Cholera Measures

The incidence of this disease has been checked considerably in recent years by effective anti-cholera measures. Disinfection of the sources of water supply by disinfectants like potassium permanganate is one of the anti-cholera measures. Whenever an outbreak of cholera is reported, anti-cholera medicines are distributed and mass inoculation campaign is conducted. Emergency cholera regulations are also enforced when the situation so warrants. Inoculation work is also carried out by the *Vaidyas*, Vaccinators and Sanitary Inspectors of the various Janapad Sabhas and Municipalities in the District.

Smallpox

This dreadful disease is a regular visitor to the District. During the period 1906-50, the severest attack was in 1908 when it was responsible for 1,221 deaths. The only years that recorded the lowest were 1917, 1918, 1923, 1924 and 1925. A very serious outbreak of this epidemic was again registered in 1951 resulting in the death of 1,297 persons. Though preventive measures considerably checked it, the disease continues to take its toll.

Vaccination

Vaccination is the most effective and the only preventive measure. It was in vogue since early nineteenth century. In 1863-64 a scheme of vaccination was sanctioned. It comprised a Superintendent of Vaccination, who happened to be a Medical Officer and a number of Vaccinators. The Vaccinators employed in Raipur District, of which Durg formed a part, were paid exclusively from the Local and Municipal funds. With a view to undertaking the work of vaccination in the Zamindaris, the vaccination staff of Chhattisgarh Division was reorganized and strengthened in 1887-88.

In 1890 necessary steps were taken to substitute animal lymph for that obtained from human beings. In 1895-96 the Civil Surgeons were directed to prepare the requisite quantum of calf-lymph at their respective headquarters. With the establishment of a Central Lymph Depot at Nagpur in 1908-09, the various vaccination units in the Province started getting vaccine from the Depot.

The erstwhile feudatory States also had sufficient arrangements for vaccination towards the close of the last century. The Civil Surgeon of Raipur and the local Vaccination Superintendents used to inspect the vaccination work. Kawardha State, however, reported to be lacking in supervision.

Till 1931 vaccination was compulsory only in Municipal and Notified areas. But by the application of the Central Provinces Vaccination Law Amendment Act, 1932 (VI of 1932) vaccination could be made compulsory in selected rural areas. In 1948-49 the supervision and control over vaccination staff was transferred to the Janapada Sabhas. The Secretary of the Standing Committee was to function as *ex-officio* Superintendent of Vaccination in place of the Civil Surgeon. At present the staff of the Public Health Department together with that of the Local Bodies carries out this work.

Certain Janapad Sabhas and Municipal Committees in the District have on their establishments certain number of Vaccinators to do primary and revaccination work in their respective areas. The services of the *Vaidyas* and Compounders of Janapad and Municipal *Ayurvedic* dispensaries are also fully utilized for vaccination work during serious outbreaks of the epidemic. Durg and Khairagarh Janapad Sabhas had six Vaccinators each. Durg and Rajnandgaon

Municipal Committees had two Vaccinators each, while Dongargarh and Kawardha Municipal Committees had one Vaccinator each on their establishments.

In 1960, the Smallpox Eradication Pilot-Project Scheme was introduced in the District. The liquid vaccine, carried by the Vaccinators over long distances which they had to travel, lost its potency in the process of transport. As a result, in spite of vaccination of a large percentage of the population, smallpox prevailed in many villages and in the labour camps of Bhilai Steel Plant. Therefore, in 1963, 1964 and 1965, vaccination teams used freeze-dried vaccine.

The vaccination work done during 1961-1965 was as under.

Year	Primary Vaccination	Revaccination
1961	1,05,303	5,07,420
1962	1,65,403	9,87,332
1963	23,973	1,57,927
1964	36,952	3,78,796
1965	76,916	3,83,377

Plague

Plague was reported to have visited the District in an epidemic form for the first time in 1907 claiming 66 lives. In 1945 this deadly disease again visited in an epidemic form, taking a toll of 59 lives. Though the District was not completely free from plauge thereafter, mortality due to it was not high. Preventive measures include inoculation, evacuation, disinfection, disinfestation and rat-destruction. Cynogassing of rat-burrows in the houses and baiting with barium carbonate are done to bring down the rat population, while straw-burning is adopted as an anti-flea measure. Emergency Plague Regulations are also enforced during serious outbreaks. The anti-plague inoculation work is done by the staff of Medical Department in collaboration with that of the Public Health Department.

Fever

What was generally treated as 'fever' in the last century has now been classified into Malaria, Influenza, Typhoid, Enteric fever, etc. Rajnandgaon State suffered from fever in 1878-79. The whole population used to suffer from their debilitating effects. Since the formation of the District in 1906 to 1956 the number of deaths on account of fever ranged from 12,000 to 30,000. About 50 per cent of the deaths could be attributed to fever.

Malaria

The State Government commenced their survey operations late in the year 1910, to chalk out the areas affected by Malaria in endemic or epidemic form as also the physiographical conditions.

Kenrick, in 1912-13 reported that 66 villages around the forests in the southern portion of Sanjari Tahsil were hyper-endemic with a spleen rate of 78 per cent in Kalara and 95 per cent in Dhobni; the dense forest clad Aundhi, Koracha and all but northern part of Panabaras Zamindari estates, were entirely hyper-endemic; the area around Dongargarh was endemic; the hilly and densely wooded north-western part of the District was malarious to a degree; the eastern portions of the northern Zamindari estates were moderately endemic, and that the headquarters town of Durg was having a spleen rate of 1.6 only.

In recent years also the trend remains so, causing great mortality.

Anti-Malaria Measures

The anti-malaria measures undertaken till the 'forties included only distribution of anti-malaria drugs. In 1949 an anti-malaria unit was established at Khairagarh. The Unit was expected to spray D.D.T. in 147 villages covering an area of 10 sq. miles and protect a population between 50,000 and 60,000. The dispensary attendance registers recorded a reduction of malaria cases by 50 to 60 per cent. This Unit continued to function till 1954. In 1955 a unit was established at Durg under the National Malaria Eradication Programme. Control measures were started in the Project areas, namely, Saroda Irrigation Project, Bhilai Steel Project and its mining area at Chowki. Later, the Tribal and Community Development Block areas of Durg, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Khairagarh and Kawardha Tahsils were also brought under its operation.

In 1959 another unit was established at Rajnandgaon. By 1963, the whole District was covered under D.D.T. spraying. Consequently it entered into the consolidation phase in 1964 under which only the surveillance operations were conducted.

There are two sub-units at Durg and Bemetera. The unit at Durg has a Laboratory equipped with 12 microscopes and technical staff.

The surveillance operations, taken up in 1960, were in progress. They are of two kinds—Active and Passive. Under the former, the staff visit every house at periodical intervals, enquire about cases of fever, take blood smears and get them examined under the microscope. If the results are found positive for malaria, the staff supply a complete course of anti-malaria drugs to cure the disease. Under passive surveillance, Governmental and private agencies connected with medical and public health and the voluntary social welfare orga-

nizations in the District report suspected cases of malaria to the authorities for examination and treatment.

The work done by the National Malaria Eradication Programme Unit can be seen from the Tables below.

Spraying Operation

Year	No. of Villages in which D.D.T. Spraying done		No. of Children Examined	No. of Positive Cases.
	1st Round	IInd Round		
1	2	3	4	5
1958	1,518	1,518	10,018	986
1959	2,055	2,055	26,800	580
1960	5,630	5,630	38,831	1,831
1961	2,043	2,043	—	—
1962	2,025	2,025	—	—
1963	1,994	Not conducted.	—	—
1964	1,956 4	1.073	—	—
1965	9,080	5,632	—	—
1966	1,090	—	—	—
1967	999	—	—	—
1968	2,794 7T	209	—	—
1969	7,682 7T	2800 7T	—	—

Note.— 1. T—Town.
2. Infant parasite Survey and Spleen Survey work have been discontinued from 1960.

Surveillance Operations

Year	No. of Fever Cases Detected		No. of cases In Which Blood Smears collected		Result	
	Active	Passive	Active	Passive	Active	Passive
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1960	3,733	3,279	2,486	170	Negative	Negative
1961	26,867	2,698	20,514	222	6 Positive	1 Positive
1962	33,679	8,751	29,027	2,286	20 ,,	8 ,,
1963	66,669	5,698	60,911	3,102	11 ,,	1 ,,
1964	64,080	7,416	57,548	5,400	12 ,,	6 ,,
1965	76,939	7,124	70,844	6,996	11 ,,	2 ,,
1966	2,03,485		1,59,375		906	
1967	1,74,919		1,71,378		616	
1968	1,63,370		1,62,631		629	
1969	1,58,105		1,59,409		354	
1970 (up to July)	89,195		76,941		168	

Note.— 1. Surveillance activities were not in operation in 1958 and 1959.
2. For the years 1966 and 1970 the figures are combined for Active and Passive Surveillances.

After the completion of two years the entire Unit entered into maintenance phase in 1966.

Tuberculosis

This infectious disease has been taking heavy toll of human lives, especially with the progress of industrialization, urbanization and, consequently, the inevitable slum areas. Alongwith poor food habits and hard work, pollution of the atmosphere by smoke and fumes emanating from the working of big industrial establishments concentrated in urban areas, working inside the factories without proper ventilation and dwelling in slums are the most propitious conditions for the growth of tubercle bacillus.

From 1950 to 1956 the annual mortality figures attributed to tuberculosis ranged from 7 to 87. The highest number of deaths, i.e., 87 was recorded in 1950 and the lowest (7) in 1953. In 1956 there were 34 deaths in the District on account of this disease. As against this the mortality figures for 1961 to 1965 were 150, 276, 897, 2348 and 58, respectively.

However, anti-tuberculosis measures, curative and preventive, are being undertaken. There is one T. B. Clinic at Khairagarh. Of the two T. B. Wards one with 16 beds is attached to the District Hospital, Durg, and the other with equal number of beds attached to the Main Hospital, Rajnandgaon. These Wards were opened in October, 1958 and February, 1956, respectively. In order to provide further medical relief to the T.B. patients in the District a 10 bedded T.B. Clinic was opened at Khairagarh on 9th April, 1962.

The number of patients treated at Khairagarh during the past few years was as shown below.—

Particulars	Year							
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1. Total No. of patients new and old, all diseases	914	3,594	3,931	4,934	5,567	5,861	4,747	4,166
2. T.B. patients only (New)	152	72	43	46	43	41	73	97

An important and effective step taken to prevent the incidence of tuberculosis in the District was the launching of B.C.G. Vaccination campaign in 1954. The B.C.G. team continued its operation till 1962 with occasional gaps testing and vaccinating a large portion of T.B. population in the District. This work was, however, discontinued since 1963, except for the visit of a team from Jabalpur to Bhilai in 1964. The vaccination done by the B.C.G. team during 1954 to 1965 was as under,—

Year	No. Tested	No. Vaccinated
1	2	3
1954	96,505	31,523
1956	15,965	5,551
1957	57,787	18,837
1958	18,116	5,961
1961	78,872	33,295
1962	38,812	14,546
1964	7,027	3,852
1965	Nil	Nil

Leprosy

The incidence of leprosy is high in the District and hence the area is considered to be endemic for leprosy. The pioneering efforts for checking its incidence were made by a missionary organization in 1908 when a Leprosy Home and Hospital was established at Rajnandgaon. This continues to be the only in-patient institution for the treatment of leprosy in the District. The activities of this Institution are given under the heading Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes.

Survey, Education and Treatment Centres

Government efforts in this direction materialized only during the Third Five Year Plan period. Under the National Leprosy Control Programme five Survey, Education and Treatment Centres were opened, one each at Balod (1963), Borla (1963), Saja (1963), Chhuria (1964-65) and Chowki (1964-65), attached to the Primary Health Centres. Each centre is under a specially trained non-Medical Assistant, who is expected to cover a population of 20,000. His work is supervised by a non-Medical Supervisor. The non-Medical Assistants do intensive leprosy survey in the villages, find out fresh leprosy cases, give domiciliary treatment and follow up the healthy contacts of leprosy cases. At these centres 444 cases of leprosy were under treatment and 1,688 healthy contacts were under observation in 1966.

Special Leprosy Clinics

During the Third Plan period three Special Leprosy Clinics were also established at Bhilai, Gurur and Nawagarh. Each clinic has a staff consisting of a specially trained Assistant Health Officer and one Leprosy Technician and covers 10 villages. The Assistant Health Officer treats all leprosy cases within the area of his jurisdiction with the modern durg known as Sulphone. In addition, he also undertakes survey work for detecting new cases of leprosy, propoganda and health education with the aid of charts and posters. During the year 1966, 711 leprosy cases were treated at these three clinics.

Leprosy Control Unit, Anda

The Government of India have launched a pilot project for the control of leprosy under the National Leprosy Control Scheme in some of the highly endemic areas in the country. The Leprosy Control Unit, Anda, is one such centre under this Scheme. Established in 1963 by a voluntary organization known as Visarjan Ashram, the Control Unit is being run on cent per cent Central assistance.

Healthy Children Home

In 1964 the Panchayat and Social Welfare Department established this institution at Durg. It accommodates 50 children under careful watch and preventive treatment.

General Dispensaries

There are 24 Government Dispensaries in the District offering treatment to leprosy patients in the outdoor departments. The Medical Officers incharge of these dispensaries are trained in leprosy work. About 636 leprosy cases are annually treated in these dispensaries.

The overall supervision, control and co-ordination rest with the Leprosy Specialist, Madhya Pradesh whose headquarters is at Bhopal.

Venereal Diseases

During the 'fifties the incidence of venereal diseases in the District was estimated to be very high. But with the extension of increased medical facilities, its incidence has considerably decreased. However, effective treatment is offered at civil hospitals and dispensaries.

Influenza

This disease in an epidemic form was raging all over the Province in 1918. There was a slight recrudescence of this disease in September, 1919, but it was in a comparatively mild form. Throughout the year 1919-20 special precautions were taken in all districts against a recurrence of the influenza epidemic. Leaflets with instructions for precautionary measures and treatment were distributed broadcast. Grants were given to dispensaries and hospitals to enable them to stock a sufficient supply of necessary medicines. Influenza again visited the District in 1956, 1957 and 1958, but mortality was not high because of the timely preventive measures taken. Emergency Influenza Regulations were enforced, public institutions were closed, and medicines were distributed through mobile dispensaries.

Eye Diseases

Trachoma and Cataract are the two diseases of the eye, generally found in the District. Under the auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research, a Pilot Project Survey was conducted in the State in 1959 to assess the incide-

nce of Trachoma. It was observed that its incidence constituted 42 per cent of eye diseases in Durg District. Eye Camps were held at Khairagarh (1958), Balod (1964), Rajnandgaon (1964) and Durg (1965), the latter two by private agencies.

Other Diseases

Other diseases in the District included bowel complaints and respiratory diseases other than Tuberculosis. As mentioned earlier, the main causes of bowel complaints are lack of protected drinking water supply and other insanitary conditions. But the present day rural sanitation measures and supply of filtered water in urban areas have considerably reduced the occurrence of these diseases.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

Organisation of the Medical and Public Health Department

With the formation of Durg as a separate District in 1906, the Civil Surgeon was placed incharge of Medical and Public Health. In 1931 the post of Civil Surgeon at Durg was abolished and his powers were vested in the Civil Surgeon, Raipur. After the integration of Feudatory States in 1948 the Civil Surgeon's post at Durg was revived. The Civil Surgeon also supervises the Janapad Sabha dispensaries and Homoeopathic dispensaries in the District. He is assisted by an additional Civil Surgeon. The Additional Civil Surgeon, besides being in charge of public health activities, is responsible for the working of different Primary Health Centres in the District. The Medical officers in charge of Primary Health Centres are also Health Officers for the areas under their respective jurisdiction. These officers are assisted by the Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors in public health activities.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

At the close of 1965 the District had 2 Hospitals, 5 Dispensaries, 97 Ayurvedic Dispensaries, 1 T. B. Clinic, 2 T. B. Wards. 23 Primary Health Centres and 30 Family Planning Clinics. With the launching of the Five Year Plans Durg District began to enjoy additional medical facilities provided by the Government as given in the Appendix.

The total number of Beds (categorywise) and the Bed-Population Ratio at the end of each Plan are given below.

	First Plan	Second Plan	Third Plan
General Beds	155	188	308
T.B. Beds	32	32	42
Total Beds	187	220	350
Bed per 1,000 population	0.12	0.14	0.18
Bed-strength at the District H.Q.	37	37	100

Of the seven hospitals and dispensaries one is the District Headquarters Hospital and the remaining six are tahsil hospitals or dispensaries.

The District Headquarters Hospital, Durg

With the addition of 63 beds in 1961, the 37 bedded old hospital at Durg was replaced by a new well-equipped 100 bedded hospital which formally started functioning from 23rd January, 1963. Besides the Civil Surgeon and Additional Civil Surgeon, it is staffed by 12 Doctors including specialists. The Civil Surgeon is also the Superintendent of the Hospital. Specialists in Medicine, Gynaecology, Eye-Nose-Throat, Radiology,Ophthalmology and Anaesthesia were provided here in 1963. There are three Lady Doctors of whom one is a qualified Gynaecologist. The other two are Assistant Surgeons. Certain beds are provided for maternity cases. Midwives and *Dais* are being trained in this hospital. Ambulance service was also provided in this Hospital in 1961. The number of indoor and outdoor patients annually treated in this Hospital was as under.—

Year	Indoor		Outdoor	
	Remaining	New	New	New and old
1961	101	2,262	41,160	92,112
1962	99	2,069	51,797	116,392
1963	116	2,901	61,394	147,558
1964	115	5,417	69,877	118,484
1965	98	4,641	64,341	134,374

Blood Bank

A Blood Bank was instituted in the District Hospital in June, 1961. One Assistant Surgeon is in charge of the Blood Bank. He is assisted by one Biochemist, one Laboratory Technician and one Ward Boy. Blood is received from donors and preserved here for transfusion to the needy patients after grouping, cross machinery examination, etc. The equipment includes hot air oven, refrigerators, incubator, double distilled water apparatus, autoclave, etc.

Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries

Civil Hospital, Bemetera

It is placed incharge of an Assistant Surgeon. There are 11 beds—five in the Maternity Ward and the rest in General Ward. The average number of indoor and outdoor patients treated during the period 1961-65 was 1,018 and 21,862, respectively.

Main Hospital, Rajnandgaon

It is now a 50 bedded Hospital with a staff of five Doctors including one Lady Doctor. One of the Doctors, an Assistant Surgeon, is in charge of the Hospital. There is an Auxiliary Nurse-cum-Midwives Training Centre in this Hospital. There are 12 Maternity beds. A 16 bedded T.B. Ward was also attached

to this Hospital in 1950. The old Female Hospital was attached to this Hospital in February, 1964. The total number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at this Hospital during the period 1960-65 was:

Year	Indoor	Outdoor
1960	12,819	41,155
1961	12,164	53,039
1962	12,033	61,937
1963	11,946	52,175
1964	13,873	57,194
1965	19,776	62,165

Government Allopathic Dispensaries

There are four such dispensaries, established in 1958 in the District. They are located at Gandai (Khairagarh Tahsil), Rengakhar (Kawardha Tahsil), Aundhi (Balod Tahsil), and Khamaria (Bemetara Tahsil). Each dispensary has a staff consisting of one Doctor, one Compounder and one Dresser. The dispensary at Gandai has maternity facilities also. In addition, there is one aided dispensary at Lal Bahadur Nagar in Khairagarh Tahsil opened in April, 1959 by the Khairagarh Janapad Sabha.

Departmental Hospitals

A 25 bedded well-equipped hospital, situated about two miles from the Bhilai Railway Station with a staff of three Assistant Medical Officers and 70 others, started functioning at the Bhilai Marshalling yard with effect from 25th March, 1964. A midwife looks after the maternity and child welfare cases. The average number of indoor and outdoor patients annually treated during the three years 1963-64 to 1965-66 was 313 and 6,156, respectively. There are two Railway Hospitals at Dongargarh and Charoda run by the South Eastern Railways.

Police Hospital

There is no separate Police Hospital at Durg. However, there is a ten bedded Police Ward attached to the District Hospital. One Medical Officer of the District Hospital is in charge of this Ward. The average number of patients treated in the Police Ward during the years 1962-66 was 188.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

There are two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the District. They are located at Durg and at Chhuria in Rajnandgaon Tahsil.

Child Welfare Centre

The Child Welfare Centre at Durg was originally started by the Indian

Red Cross Society and was subsequently transferred to the Municipal Committee, Durg. Milk supply to children at this Centre is the responsibility of the Civil Surgeon. Medicines and other articles are, however, provided by the Municipal Committee.

Besides, the Steel town of Bhilai has now a network of medical institutions—a 278 bedded Main Hospital, a 60 bedded Health Centre-cum-Hospital at Sector I, two 10 bedded Health Centres in Sectors V and VII, Dispensaries at Labour Camp II and Khursipar, a mobile dispensary visiting the Boria Camp; and a Main Medical Post, Coke-Oven Medical Post and first aid posts at the Plant site.

Main Hospital, Bhilai and associated Medical Institutions.

The Main Hospital started functioning on 8th May, 1963. It has a huge staff which includes specialists in Medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Gynaecoloy, Obstetrics, Paediatrics, Eye-Nose-Throat, Orthopaedic Surgery, Dental Surgery, Radiology, Chest, Skin and V.D. There are in all 85 Doctors, one Matron, two Assistant Matrons, 24 Nursing Sisters, 20 Senior Staff Nurses, 69 Junior Staff Nurses, two Senior Radiographers and others. There are four operation theatres, centrally air-conditioned, with an Anaesthetist, one Casualty Department, one air-conditioned Pathology Department and one Labour-Room with all modern facilities, giving round-the, clock service. In addition to the Main Hospital there are Health Centres and Dispensaries in Sectors and Labour Camps. The details of medical establishments with facilities are given below.—

Medical Institution/Unit	Year of establishment	No of Beds	No. of Meternity Beds	Indoor Patients	Outdoor Patients
1. Main Hospital	1963	278	60	13,884	1,65,984
2. Health Centre Sector I	1957	60	30	1,656	92,934
3. Health Centre Sector V	1958	10	10	636	1,32,012
4. Health Centre Sector VII	1958	10	10	660	85,920
5. Health Centre Khursipar	1865	—	—	—	47,820
6. Dispensary Labour Camp II	1956	—	—	—	54,240
7. Coke-Oven Dispensary	1957	—	—	—	29,124
8. Plant Medical Post	1960	—	—	—	1,23,568
9. Mobile Van	1963	—	—	--	24,144

There also exists since 1961, one Industrial Medical Plant Unit which looks after the health and working condition of the workers at the Plant site. This Unit also considers the problem of accidents, accident proneness and prevention of accidents. Besides, Family Planning Units are also functioning at the Main Hospital, Health Centre I and at Khursipar Health Centre. The Chief Medical Officer, Bhilai Steel Plant, supervises and controls all these medical units.

Primary Health Centres

A Primary Health Centre may be defined as an organization providing or making accessible under the direct supervision of at least one physician, the basic health services of a community.

With the opening of Primary Health Centres in the Community Development and National Extension Service Block areas since 1955, the rural areas in the District started receiving medical facilities. Primary Health Centres were established in the Community Development Blocks of Patan in 1955, Khairagarh and Nandgaon in 1956 and of Berla and Kawardha in 1957. The Primary Health Centres, started under the intensive Block development activities, were taken over by the Public Health Department in their post-intensive phase from 1956-57 onwards. Many more Primary Health Centres were established in subsequent years, at times upgrading the existing allopathic dispensaries there. Each Primary Health Centre may not have more than three Sub-centres within the same Block. A midwife is attached to each sub-centre. A list of Primary Health Centres and their sub-centres established in the District upto 1965-66, and Tahsil-wise position of Hospitals, Dispensaries, Doctors and the total number of patients treated, are given in Appendix.

Provincialization of Hospitals and Dispensaries

The dispensaries in the District generally belonged to Class III category and were managed by the Local Bodies. Prior to the reorganization of the State the Hospital at Rajnandgaon was provincialized in 1948 and that at Durg in 1955. Other dispensaries in the District continued to be managed by the Local Bodies. Private institutions were eligible to receive grant-in-aid for the maintenance of dispensaries. After the States' reorganization it was found that in other integrating units, the hospitals and dispensaries were being managed by the respective state funds, After Independence it was considered desirable to provincialize all such dispensaries. In Durg District, dispensaries at Bemetara, Aundhi, Gandai, Khamaria and Rengakhar were thus provincialized with effect from 1st August 1959.

Expenditure on Medical and Public Health

The annual expenditure incurred on Medical and Public Health activities in the District during the years 1959-60 to 1965-66 was.—

Year	Medical (In Rs.)	Public Health (In Rs.)
1959-60	3,45,377	1,30,635
1960-61	4,31,063	1,36,844
1961-62	N.A.	1.36,712
1962-63	4,20,535	89,697
1963-64	6.66,954	3,66.659
1964-65	4,19,316	6,42,577
1965-66	7,34,562	4,36,160

Ayurvedic Dispensaries

In 1937 Government appointed a Committee under the Medical Department Resolution to examine the indigenous system of medicine practised in the Province. The Committee observed that medical relief on the lines of *Ayurveda* and *Unani* systems should be extended freely and that "one Ayurvedic or one Unani dispensary should be established for every area ten miles in radius."[1] The Government accepted this in principle as a measure for extending medical facilities to rural areas. Initially the Local Bodies were encouraged to open *Ayurvedic* dispensaries with Government aid within the areas under their jurisdiction. By 1966 the District had 13 Government *Ayurvedic* dispensaries and 84 others managed by the different Janapad Sabhas and other Local Bodies. The Government *Ayurvedic* Dispensaries at Bhatgaon, Mohara, Rampur, Saloni, Bichanpur, Itar, Chilphi, Singhangarh, Dhanoura and Geera were established in 1961, while those at Haldi, Bandhabazar and Maro were established in 1963.

There were 25 such dispensaries in Durg Tahsil (Durg Janapad), 14 in Bemetara, 15 in Rajnandgaon, 10 in Balod, 8 in Khairagarh and 12 in Kawardha Tahsil.

Homoeopathic Dispensaries

There were three Government Homoeopathic Dispensaries in the District by 1966 located at Dongargarh, Khairagarh and Arjunda. The Dongargarh Homoeopathic Dispensary was established in 1950 while that at Arjunda in 1964. These dispensaries are in charge of an Assistant Homoeopathic Medical Officer each.

Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes

There were 87 private practitioners in urban areas and 46 in rural areas in 1966.

The only private hospital that deserves a special mention in the District is the Rajnandgaon Leprosy Hospital and Clinic, Rajnandgaon. Established in 1908, this Institution is controlled by the Wesleyan Methodist Mission, Marion, Indiana, U.S.A Leprosy patients admitted here are given free boarding, lodging, clothing and operation facilities. There are 158 beds in this Hospital. The staff is headed by a Superintendent. The institution receives a grant-in-aid at the rate of Rs. 10 per month per patient from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The total number of indoor and outdoor patients treated here and the annual grant-in-aid received from the Government during the past few years were.—

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1 Report of the Committee appointed to examine the Indigenous systems of medicine practised in the Central Provinces and Berar, 1939, p. 1.

Year	Patients Treated		Grant-in-aid Received	
	Indoor	Outdoor	Year	Rs.
1958	64	430	1957-58 to 1960-61	32,826
1959	59	382	1961-62 to 1966-67	47.076
1960	79	389	1967-68 to 1969-70	31,913
1961	55	511		
1962	75	425		
1963	99	419		
1964	104	520		
1965	105	546		
1966	99	475		
1967	142	593		
1968	144	144		
1969	149	571		

Medical Facilities Under Employees' State Insurance Scheme

In order to provide proper medical facilities to industrial workers and their families the Employees' State Insurance Scheme was introduced in the District on 25th September, 1960. The facilities provided include special consultation, provision of special medicines, X-ray and laboratory examination, domiciliary visits by the Insurance Medical Officers and Hospitalization. There is a special staff for this work. The following Table will show the medical relief afforded under this Scheme.—

Year	No. of Insured Persons	No. of Patients attended	No. of Certificates issued	No. of Operations performed	No. of Injections given
1960	4,700	19,196	—	—	5,628
1961	4,700	86,938	8,156	102	19,678
1962	5,494	100,805	12,047	106	25,159
1963	5,494	50.816	3,993	115	11,080
1964	5,299	55,076	4,597	111	14,033
1965	5,299	68,116	7,834	100	13,259
1966	4,068	44,126	8,372	78	13,640
1967	3,732	41,706	9,541	56	7,276

Year	No. of Home visits	No. of Laboratory examination	No. of X-ray taken	Specialist advice	Cases referred (admitted to Hospital
1960	—	15	3	18	8
1961	140	86	101	184	26
1962	106	61	99	317	27
1963	132	49	42	88	17
1964	46	54	70	293	59
1965	54	54	127	697	87
1966	21	52	87	592	71
1967	8	92	151	671	31

Public Health Laboratory

Under a master plan prepared in 1960 a Public Health Laboratory was established at Durg in 1961, attached to the District Hospital, Durg. An Assistant Surgeon is in charge of the Laboratory.

Health Publicity

The Health Film Library of the Directorate of Health Services at Bhopal distributes films on health education to the Development Blocks, Family Planning Clinics, Primary Health Centres and voluntary social service organizations.

Medical Organisations and Associations

A Branch of the International Organisation of its kind at Geneva, the Indian Red Cross Society was inaugurated in the District on 19th August, 1964. The District Branch of the Society had undertaken distribution of milk powder and other articles to the children and nursing mothers in the drought-affected areas of the District from July, 1966. The St. John's Ambulance Association also had been active in the District. Its activities included conducting of First Aid and Home Nursing Examinations.

There are three branches of Indian Medical Association in the District. They are located at Durg, Rajnandgaon and Bhilai. The branches at Durg and Rajnandgaon were started in 1957 and 1964, respectively. The former has 40 members and the latter 22. The members exchange their views on problems connected with medicine, surgery and special diseases.

Family Planning

In 1961-62 the Clinic attached to the District Hospital was upgraded as 'a clinic attached to teaching institutions'. This Clinic is having a full-time Lady Assistant Surgeon, besides other staff. In the same year another urban clinic was opened at Civil Hospital, Rajnandgaon. The rural Family Planning clinics as a rule were also attached to the various Primary Health Centres. Each clinic is generally provided with a male and/or female social worker and an attendant. However, by the end of the Third Plan period the District had three urban and 26 rural Family Planning Clinics besides the one opened at the Main Hospital, Bhilai. The details regarding Family Planning Centres in the District is given in Appendix.

SANITATION

The first step taken in the direction of sanitation and conservancy arrangements was in the year 1864-65 when the Medical Officer in each district was appointed *ex-officio* Sanitary Officer of the Local and Municipal Committees. The Sanitary Officer functioned as an adviser to the civil authorities in all matters connected with sanitation and conservancy. Sanitary sub-committees were appointed by the Principal Local Committees to look after sanitation

work and drinking water. The Department of Sanitation was supervised by a Special Commissioner. Sanitation of towns with Municipalities was provided by special rules having a force of law. Civil Surgeon in his capacity of Health Officer in each district advised on all matters about sanitation.

In 1877-78 the supervision of matters connected with sanitation became the charge of the Sanitary Commissioner (Chief Commissioner) who, assisted by the Civil Surgeons of the districts, advised district officers in all matters connected with conservancy, sanitation and hygiene. By 1879-80 in almost all Municipalities conservancy arrangements were insisted upon. During the year a large number of village conservancy rules were issued and copies of *Practical Hints on Sanitation* prepared by the Army Sanitary Commission were distributed to every Municipality in the Province. The *Sanitary Primer* issued by the Sanitary Commission of the Government of India was translated into the vernaculars and copies were supplied to schools.

In 1889-90, the Central Provinces Village Sanitation Act, XIX of 1889 was passed. This Act empowered the Chief Commissioner to enforce certain sanitary reforms. The Chief Commissioner by an issue of a resoultion among other things also constituted a Sanitary Board, with the Deputy Surgeon-General and the Superintending Engineer, to chalk out a plan for the general sanitary survey of all Municipalities towards the first step required in the initiation of a regular programme of hygiene reform.

Though the Village Sanitation Act was introduced in 1889, as far as Durg was concerned it was not in force in any of its villages during the first decade of the present century. All that was done for village sanitation was the appointment of a team of sweepers at Dhamda, Arjunda, Patan and Bhilai in Durg Tahsil; Nawagarh, Darhi, Bemetara and Deokar in Bemetara Tahsil; and at Balod in Sanjari Tahsil under the *Mukaddam* Rules framed under the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act.

The rules and instructions issued by the Sanitary Commissioner in respect of urban sanitation were implemented by the different Municipal Committees of the District.

In 1920 two Acts, namely, the C.P. and Berar village Sanitation and Public Management Act of 1920 and the C.P. and Berar Village Panchayat Act, were introduced. Accordingly, the Village Panchayats began to look after the sanitation in rural areas under prescribed rules of Village Sanitation Act. With the introduction of Gram Panchayats supervised by Janapad Sabhas in the 'forties this responsibility was shifted to them gradually.

The Community Development Blocks undertook this responsibility in respect of areas under their jurisdiction. The Janapad Sabhas in the rural areas and the Municipal Committees in the Urban areas have separate staff for this

work. The staff appointed by these agencies include Sanitary Inspectors, Health Visitors and Vaccinators. The work done in this regard by various Development Blocks in the District is detailed in Appendix.

Water Supply

Water supply in the urban areas is solely the responsibility of the respective Municipal Committees. Durg, Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh have pipe water-supply.

In the rural areas the Janapad Sabhas are responsible for the supply of drinking water. They sink new wells and tanks, and repair old ones.

Slum Clearance and Drainage

The Municipalities attend to this work in the urban areas. In the rural areas this work rests with the Janapad Sabhas.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Prohibition

The British administration in the Central Provinces, till the year 1904, looked upon Excise as the most fruitful source of revenue. A change was brought about in 1905 in the Excise policy aiming at bringing about temperance. Revenue collection became only a secondary object. A drastic change in this policy was again brought about in 1921. This new policy aimed at gradual and ultimate prohibition replacing the old one of temperance. With a view to reducing drinking facilities as much as possible, the Government declared its intention to follow much more vigorously those measuers, including reduction in the number of shops, hours of sale, strength of liquor, supplies, facilities at fairs and festivals, etc.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar by its Resolution of the 1st of June, 1935, appointed an Excise Committee to review the working of the policy of Prohibition. The Committee found that some of the restrictive measures resulted in reducing the consumption of licit liquor but on the other hand, they helped in increasing the consumption of illicit liquor, resulting in an enormous loss of excise revenue. The Committee recommended that administrative control, lost due to the prohibition policy, should essentialy be re-established.

This Excise Committee Report of 1937 was shelved when the Popular Government returned to power in that year. The Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act, 1938 (VII of 1938), was introduced formally from 1st April, 1938. Durg District remained a wet area. The prohibition policy was resumed, when the Popular Government again returned to power in the last quarter of 1946. Only Durg tahsil of the Durg District was declared dry in respect of liquor since 1st October, 1946. Prior to this, import, sale and consumption of *Charas* were totally prohibited in whole of the District since 1937. Subsequently when the Government found that under the pressure of Prohibition Act, many of the liquor addicts had taken to drugs, the Government banned the possession and sale of opium, *ganja* and *bhang* in Durg tahsil only, with effect from 1st January, 1948.

Temperance or Anti-Drink Movements

Prior to the year 1922-23, the Government of the Province claimed itself to be the staunchest follower of the policy of temperance or moderation. The

measures taken during the decade 1911-1920 included the extension of the supply system, steady reduction of the hours of sale, raising of the age-limit for children, substitution of weak liquor for strong, steady enhancement of duty-rates, and intensive campaign against illicit distillation. Prior to it anti-drink movement was started in thc District as early as 1920. The Indian National Congress Session held at Nagpur gave an impetus to the movement. The delegates returned after attending the Congress Session with enthusiasm for the good work before them. The picketing of liquior shops, which had begun just before the Congress met, was renewed with rigour. The Government had to abandon excise auctions in the District of Durg. This crusade against liquor proved to be of considerable strength and adversely affected the excise revenue and consumption of country liquor. The consumption of country spirit declined by 68 per cent in Durg District. The incidence of consumption also was the lowest in the District. In opium consumption too, there was the heaviest decrease (38%). Counsumption of hemp drugs declined by 290 seers. Thirty-nine shops of the excise goods had to be closed in the District and not a single shop could be sold by auction on account of intensive anti-liquor movement.

Such occurrences were again noticed in the District during the Civil Disobedience Movements of early 'thirties of this century' when the movement for, picketing of liquor shops and warehouses was organised. This led to the fall of consumption of liquor, opium, *ganja* and *bhang*. The picketing was so vigorous in 1930 at some places that no supply could be made and shops were without liquor for several days until the liquer had to be escorted by the police lorries and before which Congress volunteers started throwing themselves. Social boycott of contractors and consumers was also organised. The Intimidation Ordinance was made applicable to the District by the Government to meet the situation and in 19 cases it was used. During second Civil Disobedience Movement of 1932-33, the Congress resorted to picketing and boycott. Influential members of the Congress tried to dissuade contractors from bidding at the auction sales. Thus in 1937 local Congress Committees of the District carried on propaganda against the liquor and opium habit and distributed pamphlets, advocating the use of anti-liquor and anti-opium mixtures, prepared by a local medical practitioner. Next year, some volunteers preached against drinking in a few villages of Dondi Lohara *zamindari* in Durg District. A certain anti-drink movement was again noticed in the interior of Balod and Bemetera tahsils in the months of March and April, 1948. The workers put social pressure and imposed social boycott and fines on the drinkers as a result of which the liquor contractors could not get any coolies to transsport liquor from the warehouses to the shops.

The movement subsided when the President of the Durg District Congress Committee and the Deputy Commissioner explained Government's policy to the leaders of the movement. Social Education Centres of the District too carried on propaganda among the villagers in favour of advantages of abstinence.

The State Government also gives grant-in-aid to the Bharat Sewak Samaj for carrying anti-drink propaganda at Bhilai. Prohibition week in October began to be observed in the District since 1946.

Difficulties Encountered.

Illicit distillation proved to be a major problem of the Excise Department. The social custom of the *adiwasis* is such that they use either out-still or illicitly distilled liquor for offerings to their deity, discarding the liquor supplied by the authorities. The *adiwasis* generally resort to illicit distillation on such occasions. During the years 1940-1950 the number of detected offences of illicit distillation ranged from 12 to 39. In the succeding decade the highest number reached was 139 in 1957-58. During years from 1961-62 to 1965-66, the total number of offences under illicit distilation was 342.

The dry tahsil of Durg is mostly surrounded by the wet areas and as such chances of smuggling the liquor into the dry area are there. The smuggling cases detected during 1961-1966 were 17.

With effect from 1st January, 1948 the sale and consumption of opium, *ganja* and *bhang* were prohibited in dry area in the District. Opium is totally prohibited in the District from 1st April, 1959. It is issued on permits to addicts only in gradually diminishing quantity. Poppy Husk Rules were brought into force with a view that opium addicts may use poppy husk as a substitute for opium. Limits of sale and consumption of *ganja* are also reduced. To check the misuse of denatured spirit, limits of sale and possession have too been reduced. The total number of opium and *madak* offences registered in the District during the years 1961-62 to 1965-66 was 31.

Under Poppy Husk Rules the detection of cases numbered four in 1961-62 and one in 1962-63. The offences registered in the District under Hemp Durgs Rules during the years 1961-62 to 1965-66 were 67.

Degree of Success Achieved

In fact, the Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act was passed in the hope of improving the social, economic, moral, physical and domestic life of the poor. In the beginning official District Reports very enthusiastically indicated, in general, improved economic conditions of the ex-addicts. However, the Prohibition Enquiry Committee, 1951, opined that "Prohibition has not let to elimination of drinking, but may have led to reduction in the consumption of liquor, "and it has helped in increasing" mal-practices of illicit, distillation, smuggling and consumption of deleterious substances". It also added that the prohibition policy has not led to any betterment of the

economic social and physical condition of the drinking classes.[1] District Excise Administration authorities too during recent years have observed that now the addicts consume liquor. Smuggled or illicitly distilled liquor is very costly in dry area and hence out of the reach of a common man. In that restricted sense alone drink habit may be regarded as having decreased. The table givsn below shows the results of prosecution under the Prohibition Act during the years 1961-62 to 1965-66.

Year	No. of persons			Amount of fines imposed (in Rs.)	Amount paid as reward to informers captors etc. (in Rs)
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Imprisoned		
1961-62	124	53	12	3,425	205
1962-63	154	55	26	2,430	223
1963-64	34	17	8	750	67
1964-65	88	51	8	2,305	—
1965-66	103	61	36	5,900	—

Excise Revenue and Expenditure in Durg District from the year 1961-62 to 1965-66 are tabulated below.

Year	Revenue Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1961-62	2,415,622	94,612
1962-63	2.735,893	99,442
1963-64	2,889,112	94,711
1964-65	3,232,977	107,279
1965-66	3,713,982	134.974

Prohibition Repealed

The Government, after examining the various aspects of prohibition policy, difficulties encountered in its implementation and the degree of success achieved decided to repeal the prohibition with effect from 1st September, 1967, vide the Madhya Pradesh Madya Nishedh Vidhi Nirsan Adhyadesh.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBES

When the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1936[2], came into force only 13 castes of this District were declared as Scheduled Castes. Under the Constitution (Schedulded Castes) Order, 1950 only 14 castes of the District were declared to be Scheduled Castes. According to the Constitu-

1. Report of the M.P. Prohibition Enquiry Committee, 1951, p. 92.
2. The C.P. & Berar Constitutional Manual, Vol. II, 1937, pp. 42-45,

tion (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950, in Balod (Sanjari) tahsil there were 31 Scheduled Tribes.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (modification) Order 1956, superseded both the Constitution Orders and listed 15 Scheduled Castes in District. The Order extended the Scheduled Tribes area so as to cover 32 Tribes of the Durg and Sanjari Balod Tahsils of the District. The total population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as enumerated in 1961 Census in the District was 2,06,872 (10.97 percent) and 2,08,7773[1] (11.07 per cent) respectively.

Literacy

Out of their total population in the District 1,84,320 Scheduled Castes persons were literate. It is interesting to note that the number of literate females was greater than the literate males among them. Some 1,02,017 females were literate while the number of male literates was only 82,303. As regards the literacy among Scheduled Tribes, literates numbered 1,82,219. Of these literates, 1,02,910 were females and 79,309 were males. Further details have been given in Chapter XV— Education and Culture.

Economic conditions and Advancement

Agriculture has been the mainstay of economy of the Backward Classes and Tribes. As early as 1940, the Aboriginal Tribes Enquiry Officer reported that in many cases the aboriginal descended through the stage of a sub-tenant or a so-called partner-ship-cultivator to that of a farm-servant, often tilling what were formerly his own acres for an absente *malguzar*, tenant or moneylender. In the end even this stand-by disappeared and he became a casual labourer and sank to the status of the menial castes.

In Durg District, it was found that aboriginal tenants and holdings had since the settlement of the 'nineties increased from 13,958. holding 11,384.66 hectares to 24,921, holding 12,704.45 hectares. In the *khalsa* areas of the three tahsils of the District and in somewhat advanced Khujji *zamindari* aboriginals had in 50 years lost79.76 hactares per mille, their area falling about 20 per cent from 66,765.18 to 53,319.84 hectares. From the open parts of the District, the aboriginals had long ago been displaced from most of their land. In the two revenue inspector circles of the Balod tahsil, Gurur and Balod, the loss of land was very heavy. Aboriginal holding had fallen since the 'nineties from 19,692.94 to 12,418.22, a loss of 148.58 hectares out of every thousand.

Between December, 1935 and September, 1938, the C. P. Land Alienation Act of 1916 was made applicable to the aboriginal tribes, In case of Durg District, to Gond, Kawār and Halba in the Balod and Bhandara revenue inspector circles of Sanjari-Balod tahsil and the Nawagarh and Maro circles of Bemetera tahsil.

1 These figures are only for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the Scheduled Areas and not of the whole District.

This question of loss of aboriginal land was closely allied with the indebtedness of the tribals, and, therefore, the Aboriginal Enquiry Officer observed that there was a necessity of adopting protective measures. He also added that it was quite unsafe to leave the aboriginals at the mercy of the exploiters. With a view to checking indebtedness several legislative measures were taken by the Provincial Government. There was a spate of debt legislation during the years 1933 to 1940. Debt Conciliation Act, 1933, (amended by one Act in 1934 and two each in 1935, 1936 and 1937) was passed. Again in 1934 the Central Provinces Usurious Loans (Amendment) and the Central Provinces Money Lenders Acts were enacted. The latter was amended in 1936, 1937 and in 1940. In 1937 the Central Provinces Protection of Debtors Act and in 1939, the Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act (amended thrice till 1944) were brought into force. The Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act replaced Debt Conciliation Boards by Debt Relief Courts.

Debt Conciliation Boards worked in each tahsil of Durg District. But the ineffective publicity defeated the purpose of the board. Equally ineffective publicity was given to the establishments of Debt Relief Courts of the District. Probably this was the reason that only four aboriginals came to the Debt Relief Courts of the District. It was also found that aboriginal farm-labourers of the District were, to certain extent, the victims of the evil of bond service.

The main economic need of the aboriginal has been a source of cheap credit. In 1940 only in some of the *zamindaris* of the District, there was some sort of co-operative movement. These *zamindaris* contained 11 co-operative societies with 60 aboriginals members and the remaining members were non-aboriginals. Of these one was in Khujji consisting exclusively of the aboriginal members, numbering 13.

Post Independence period

After 1947, various steps have been taken by the Government in order to improve the economic condition of the tribals and other Backward Class people. For the economic advancement of the tribals a few co-operative societies were formed. In the First Five Year Plan period one multi-purpose co-operative society was organised in the District for the economic welfare of the tribals. By the end of Second Plan the number increased to three, and in addition, two forest labourer's co-operative societies were formed. Their number was, respectively, increased by 11 and 6 by the year 1965-66. Each of these co-operative societies was given Rs. 7,500 for constructing a godown and Rs. 10,000 as share capital by the Government. Their membership is open mainly for tribals. In 1966-67 the number of Forest labourer's societies was 12 having a membership of 1,214. The number of labour contract societies was 6 and 1,353 persons were their members. Multi-purpose co-operative societies numbered 17, having 4,429 members. Co-operative societies of 112 persons, engaged in production of leather goods, numbered 8. Of all these, 24

societies were working in profit, while 5 are in loss and 14 are running with no profit and no lass.

Cottage Industries

For the revival of the traditional and other cottage industries of the Scheduled Tribes of the District, the Government made provision of training centres and tried to improve their economic condition by encouraging those industries. Similarly, educationally qualified students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the District are sent to the training centres of Korba and Dhamnod for receiving technical training. The course extends over a year and an half and during the training period each trainee is given a monthly stipend of Rs. 50. In the year 1966-67, some 36 and 23 trainees from this District were sent to the centres at Korba and Dhamnod, respectively.

Legal Aid

The Government also gives monetary help in the form of legal aid to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people to meet the expenses required to fight their legal cases in the civil courts. During the Third Plan period Rs. 850 and 750 were given to the persons of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively.

With a view to giving relief to the indebted people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, the Government introduced a scheme from 15th August, 1963, in the whole of the State. Accordingly, a Debt Relief Court presided by Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) was established on 26th November, 1963, at Balod, the *tahsil* headquarters which is a Scheduled area of the District.

Agricultural Subsidy

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe cultivators receive agricultural subsidy at the rate of Rs. 500 for purchasing seeds and bullocks. During the period of Third Five Year Plan, 211 and 105 cultivators, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the District, respectively, were benefited by this scheme. Similarly, for the purpose of soil conservation, the Department of Tribal Welfare gave subsidy to 613 tribal cultivators at the rate of Rs. 40 per acre, totalling to Rs. 24,520. This subsidy is given as Land Development Loan. If it is used for the right purpose, it it treated as subsidy otherwise it is realised as revenue arrears.

Housing

The Government also sanctioned grant-in-aid at the rate of Rs. 750 per family of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for constructing houses. In the Second Five Year Plan period under this scheme aid was given for constructing 345 houses of which 236 were completed.

Assistance in Agriculture

For the welfare of tribal cultivators, the Government, during the period of Third Five Year Plan, provided financial assistance organising 39 Paddy Collecting Societies. For collection and storage purposes, the Government gave them grants at the rate of Rs. 500 and 200, respectively. The Society distributes the stored paddy among its members whenever they are in need. The membership is open only for those tribals who own land below 20 acres.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the District together form more than 22 per cent of the total 1961 population of the District. Industrially, they are mostly dependent on agriculture. The figures tabulated below exhibit their number in the sphere of agriculture.

Category	Total population	Workers			
		Total	Cultivators.	Agricultural labourers	Total no in agriculture.
Scheduled Castes.	2,06,872	1,33,313	87,823	26,296	114,119
Scheduled Tribes.	2,08,777	1,31,935	1,00,137	22,898	123,035

The figures reveal that about 86 per cent of the total Scheduled Caste workers depend on agriculture for their livelihood. As regards the Scheduled Tribes, it is found that about 93 per cent of their workers depend on this industry. The remaining population of their workers depends on other industries.

Social Advancement

From times immemorial, the so-called untouchables of this District also had suffered from various social disabilities. Many of these were traditionaly ostracised and socially imposed upon by the so-called high-caste people of the District, who even denied to them civil rights of using public places, wells, *serais*, *dharmashalas*, schools etc., simply because these Castes were supposed to be associated with pollution. The Tribes were not supposed to carry with them any such social stigma

In subsequent period, growth in the means of communication brought these people into close contact with others and this, to some extent, resulted in closing the gulf between these Classes and the so called high castes. With the growth of education and political and social awakening among these Classes, change in the thoughts of educated generation as regards caste restrictions, were noticed. With newspapers and periodicals new liberal and democratic ideas rapidly travelled from place to place. The political activities of the third and fourth decades of this century too made these Classes conscious of their civil rights and propaganda helped considerably in changing the heart of people, in general.

During the period of early two decades of this century the Government paid respect to the feelings of orthodoxy and opened separate schools for the children of these Classes. It was only after 1920 when socio-political activity had done more to break down caste and communal prejudices than any amount of missionary efforts that the Government gathered some courage and began to take some measures for removing social disability of the children of the Depressed Classes, studying in schools. It prohibited differential treatment to boys and girls of these Clases.

In 1947, the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar enacted and brought into force the Central Provinces and Berar Temple Entry Authorisation Act, 1947. It aimed at bringing the members of Scheduleds Castes at per with the members of other Hindu Communities in the matter of temple entry and worship of the deity in temple. In the same year the Government passed the C.P. and Bearar Scheduled Castes (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act, 1947, which prohibited discrimination against members of Scheduled Castes in all public places, like schools, hotels, shops, etc.These Acts greatly helped in giving civil rights and liberties to the so-called untouchables.

In accordance with the directive principles of State policy the State Government introduced welfare activities in all the shperes of life of these Castes and Tribes. One more legislative step with a view to giving death-blow to the evil of untouchability was taken in 1955, when the Untouchability (Offences) Act (Central) was made applicable in the State, which declared observance of untouchability at public places, an offence.

Reservation in Government Services.

In order to give adequate opportunities to these classes to join the Government service, the Government have reserved 15 percent posts for Scheduled Castes and 18 percent posts for Scheduled Tribes in Class I and II Services. The reservation in class III and IV services is to the extent of 16 and 20 per cent for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively. The other facilities such as relaxation in the normal age limit for entry into the Government service, payment of trevelling allowance for journey performed in connection with interview etc. exemption from or reduction in payment of application and examination fees are also given to the candidates of these Classes.

Other Welfare Measures

With a view to removing scarcity of drinking water, felt in the District by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government constructed 118 wells during the years 1957-58 to 1964-65. Similarly, to provide irrigation facility the Government constructed three reservoirs and four bunds during the years 1959-60 and 1961-62.

Roads about 83 kilometres in length were constructed to facilitate com-

munication in the area where tribals reside predominantly. The Government started a primary health centre and a veterinary dispensary. Eight maternity and child welfare centres were also opened.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

The Religious Endowment Acts, 1863 the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890 and the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920 were passed and amended in 1921, 1937, 1950 and in 1951, by the Central Legislature.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar for the first time passed the Central Provinces and Berar Religious and Charitable Trusts Act in 1937, which was amended in 1948 and repealed in 1951 by the Madhya Pradesh Trusts Act of the same year. This Act excludes Musalman Wakfs, dedicated only for themselves. The Musalman Wakf Validating Act, 1913 amended in 1923 and 1930, validated such Wakfs. Only those Wakfs come under the category of Public Trusts which are strictly for the benefit of public as defined by the Madhya Pradesh Pnblic Trusts Act, 1951. The Wakfs Act, 1954 which provided for better administration and supervision of Wakfs and Wakf Amendment Act, 1959, came into force in the District from 9th January, 1960. The Public Wakfs Extension of Limitation Act, 1959 repealed the Ordinanee No. 2 of 1959. The Wakfs of the District are under the administrative control of Wakfs Board, Bhopal.

The main administrative authority of the Public Trusts and some of the Charitable Endowments of the District is the Collector, who is also the Registrar of Public Trusts. The Registrar looks after the proper management and fuctioning of these Trusts.

CHAPTER—XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation in Union Legislature

The history of representation of the District in Union Legislature, in a sense, dates back to the year 1909. On the 15th of November, the Indian Councils Act, 1909 came into operation in the Central Provinces and Berar of which the then District was a part.

The Governor-General called upon the District Councils and Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Land-holders of the Province, respectively, to elect one Addaitional Member to the Legislative Council of the Governor-General. The Central Province was allotted two seats in the Council and for that purpose it formed two non-territorial constituencies.

In the case of the then Durg District, the District Council alone was authorised to select its delegate to vote for the election of an Additional Member to the Legislative Council. The land-holders of the District, on the other hand, selected three delegates to form their province-wide electoral college for electing their respective Additional Member, representing their interetss in the Council.

When the Legislative Council of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces was formed in 1914-15, the right of electing an Additional Member to the Governor-General's Legislative Council, conferred on the District Councils and Municipal Committees was transferred to the non-official members of the Provincial Legislative Council. The Constituency of Land-holders remained undisturbed.

Under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1919, two Central Legislatures, the Indian Legislative Council and the Council of State, were organised. The Central Provinces, excluding certain *zamindari*[1] and *jagirdari* estates and some Scheduled Backward Areas of the Province formed one constituency for the election of a member for the Council of State, while the Province, excluding the above estates and areas, was represented by five members elected by its four non-territorial Indian Legislative Assembly constituencies. The then Durg District was a part of the three constituencies— viz., (1)Double-Member Central—Provinces-Hindi Division (Non-Muham-madan), (2) Central

1 These included Zamindaris of Khujji and Parpori of Durg District.

Provinces (Muhammadan) and (3) Central Provinces Land-holders. This position of representation remained undisturbed as regards this District till the year 1950, when the Republican Constitution of India was inaugurated.

Under the new Constitution, delimitation of constituencies in India for electing members to the House of People or Lok Sabha, was effected. During the First Gneral Elections of 1951-52 to Lok Sabha, the District formed parts of the three Parliamentary constituencies represented by four members, viz. (1) Double-Member Bilaspur-Durg-Raipur (one seat reserved for Scheduled Castes), (2) Durg and (3) Durg-Bastar.

Under the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order of 1956, the area of the District was covered only by (1) Durg and (2) Raipur (Double-Member) Parliamentary constituencies. In Raipur (Double-Member) constituency one seat was reserved for Scheduled Tribes. Tahsils of Balod, Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh of the District were included in this constituency together with some areas of Raipur and Bastar districts for the Elections of 1957 to the Lok-Sabha.

By the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961 (being the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, as amended and revised by the Election Commission under section 7 of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961), the District was covered by (1) Durg and (2) Rajnandgaon Parliamentary Constituencies for the Elections to the Lok Sabha held in 1962, 1967 and Mid-Term Lok Sabha Elections held in 1971.

Representation in State Legislature

In the Central Provinces and Berar, the representative Government was restricted to Local Bodies and the Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces prior to the November, 1913, was the Council of the Governor-General of India. From 10th November, 1913 the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts enacted during the years 1861 to 1909, were made applicable to the Province. The Chief Commissioner's Legislative Council for the Province was established. For the nomination and election of members to the Chief Commissioner's Legislative Council, the Governor-General in Council issued necessary Regulations, on the 15th November, 1913. Under Regulations, it was ordinarily constituted of ten elected and fifteen nominated official and non-official members.

Barring the Municipal Councillors, District Councillors and Land-holders of the then District, along with their counterparts in the Divisions of Nagpur and Chhattisgarh, elected one member each from their respective constituencies. Thus, the District was represented in the said Council, only by two members. The first Council session existed from the 17th August, 1914. The term of this elected Council July, 1917, while the scond Council functioned till 1920,

The Government of India Act, 1919, constituted the Central Provinces and Berar, a Governor's Province. The Central Provinces Legislative Council Rules came into force from the 17th December, 1920. The Reformed Legislative Council included 36 elected and 34 nominated members.

The Single-Member Chhattisgarh Division Non-Muhammadan Urban Constituency included the Municipality of Durg along with those at Raipur, Dhamtari and Bilaspur and Railway Settlements of these three places. Durg District formed a Single-Member Non-Muhammadan Rural Constituency. The District also formed part of the wider constituencies, namely Chhattisgarh Division Muhammadan Rural Constituency, Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Land-holders Constituency, Central Provinces and Berar Mining Association Constituency, and Central Provinces Commerce and Industry Constituency. In this sense the District was represented, in the first Reformed Legislative Council of the Central Provinces and Berar by 6 of the 36 elected members. The Council functioned from January, 1921 to October, 1923.

The second Council commenced work in January, 1924 and lasted till September, 1926. In this Council Nagpur University Constituency was formed in 1923 of which Durg District formed a part.

The third Council, which was dissolved in August, 1930, was constituted in January, 1927. However, the newly created Non-Muhammadan Rural Constituency of Mandla resulted in an increase in the elected members of the Council. It may be mentioned that in September, 1927, the women of the Province for the first time received right to contest elections to the Council. The fourth Legislative Council of the Province, constituted in December, 1930, enjoyed extensions till March, 1937. The representation of the District remained unchanged in this Council.

Durg District was represented in the first Legislative Assembly of the Central Provinces and Berar by the following constituencies with the strength of voters shown against them (i) Raipur-Bilaspur-Durg (General-Urban)-14,467. (ii) Double-Member-Durg (General-Rural)-32,156. (iii) Bemetara (General-Rural)-31,080. (iv) Sanjari (General-Rural)-28, 717, and (v) Raipur-Bilaspur-Durg (Muhammadan-Rural)-5,960.

Of the Double-Member Durg (General-Rural) Constituency, one seat was reserved for Schedulad Castes. The District also formed part of some of the non-territorial constituencies such as Commerce, University, Land-holders, etc. In the Elections of 1946, the representation of the District in the Assembly remained unchanged.

In the First General Elections of 1951-52 the District was divided into 13 constituencies of which three were Double-Member. Thus 16 members, elected

from this District, represented it in the newly formed Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly or the Vidhan Sabha. For the Second General Elections of 1957, the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly Constituencies Order of 1956 changed the extent, etc., of the constituencies, though the total number of members and the number of Double-Member constituencies remained unchanged. As a result of passing the Two-Member (Abolition) Act of 1961, the District was divided into 16 readjusted constituencies. In the General Elections of 1967 the District was covered by 17 Vidhan Sabha constituencies.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Congress

In the First General Elections of 1951-52, the party put up four candidates for the three parliamentary constituencies, viz., Bilaspur-Durg-Raipur (Double-Member), Durg-Bastar and Durg, covering portions of the District and came out victorious in all of them. The candidates of the Party, polled 22.02; 47.7 and 63.5 per cent of the valid votes cast in these constituencies, respectively. The Party also put up candidates for all the Legislative Assembly seats of the District and out of its 16 candidates, twelve came out successful.

In the Second General Elections (1957), the Party candidates contested Raipur (Double-Member) and Durg Parliamentary seats covering portions of Durg District and came out victorious, polling 30.38; 29.73 and 49.92 per cent of the valid votes, respectively. One seat of Raipur (Double-Member) constituency was, however, reserved for Scheduled Tribes. The Party also put up 16 candidates for all the Legislative Assembly seats of the District and won 13 of them.

In the Third General Elections of 1962, the Congress put up two candidates for two Parliamentary seats-Durg and Rajnandgaon of the District and both of them came out victorious, polling 88,539 (41.7 per cent) and 76,012 (44.7 per cent) valid votes, respectively. It also contested all the 16 Legislative Assembly seats of the District and won 13 of them.

In the General Elections of 1967, the Party candidates contested the two Parlimentary seats of Durg and Rajnandgaon and won both of them polling 1,08,498 (41.2 per cent) and 1,32,444 (53.0 per cent) valid votes, respectively. The Congress also put up candidates for all the 17 Legislative Assembly seats of the District and won eleven of them.

The Congress Party (led by Jagjiwan Ram) contested both the Parliamentary) seats of Durg and Rajnandgaon during the Mid-Term Elections to Lok Sabha held in 1971. In Durg Constituency the Party candidate polled 1,63.195 (67.45 per cent) valid votes and won the seat by a margin of over 1,21.000 votes over his nearest rival of the Congress (led by Nijalingappa). In the Rajnandgaon Constituency the Party candidate, who polled 1,57,256 (61. 81 per

cent) valid votes, was declared successful, defeating his nearest rival of Congress (led by Nijalingapda) by 98,970 votes.

Ram Rajya Parished

In the First General Elections of 1951-52, the Party put up three condidates for one Single-Member (Durg-Bastar) and one Double-Member (Bilaspur-Durg-Raipur) Parliamentary constituencies of the District but all the three candidates were unsuccessful. The Party also put up 8 candidates for 8 different Legislative Assembly seats of the District. It could, however, secure only one seat (Kawardha) of the District, polling 72 per cent of the valid votes cast in that constituency.

In the Second General Elections (1957), the Ram Rajya Parished contested only one Parliamentary seat (Durg) of the District but lost it polling 21. 73 per cent of the valid votes cast in the constituency. The Party also put up six candidates for the four Legislative Assembly constituencies (including two Double-Member constituencies) of the District and won one (Kawardha) of them, polling 59 per cent of the valid votes cast in that constituency.

In the Third General Elections, 1962 its candidates were in the field from the Durg Parliamentary Constituency and eight Assembly constituencies. It polled 18.75 per cent valid votes for Parliament and lost the seat along-with seven seats of Legislative Assembly. In the Kawardha Assembly Constituency its candidate, who secured 59.56 per cent valid votes, was successful.

Krishak Mazdoor Praja Party

The Party set up three candidates for all the three Parliamentary seats of the District, viz., Bilaspur-Durg-Raipur, Durg-Bastar and Durg in the General Elections of 1951-52. The candidates, however, lost all the three seats. The Party also contested seven Legislative Assembly seats of the District, but lost all of them.

Praja Socialist Party

During the Second General Elections (1957), the Party set up two candidates for Raipur and Durg parliamentary seats of the District, but lost both of them securing 80,378 and 48,709 valid votes, respectively. The Party also set up 11 candidates for 9 Legislative Assembly seats (including 2 Double-Member constituencies) of the District and won two (Durg and Rajnandgaon) of them, polling 54 and 44 per cent of the valid votes, respectively.

In the General Elections of 1962, the Party set up two candidates for the two Parliamentary seats of the District, but lost both the seats polling 59,671 and 52,044 valid votes, respectively. The Praja Socialist Party also set up candidates for all the 16 Legislative Assembly seats of the District but captured

only 2 (Chowki, reserved for Scheduled Tribes, and Dongargaon) of them, polling 12,768 and 7,870 valid votes, respectively.

In the Fourth General Elections of 1967, the Party set up four candidates for four Legislative Assembly seats only of the District but lost all of them.

Jana Sangh

In the First General Elections, the Party put up a candidate for Durg Legislative Assembly seat of the District but lost it polling only 2,017 valid votes. In the General Election of 1957, the Party set up two candidates for Rajnandgaon and Dongargaon Legislative Assembly seats but lost both of them polling 1,907 and 5,180 valid votes, respectively. In the General Elections of 1962, the Party set up a candidate for the Rajnandgaon Parliamentary constituency of the District but he was unsuccessful polling 11,643 valid votes. The Party also set up 10 candidates for the Legislative Assembly seats of the District but could not capture any seat.

In the Fourth General Elections (1967) also the Party put up a candidate for the Rajnandgaon Parliamentary constituency but lost it after polling 31,368 valid votes. The Party also put up 13 candidates for the Legislative Assembly seats of the District but all of them were unsuccessful in these elections.

Communist Party of India

In the First General Elections of 1951-52, the Party set up a candidate for Durg Parliamentary constituency but lost the seat polling 15.1 per cent of the valid votes cast in that constituency. The Party also contested Kuthari Legislative Assembly seat and lost it polling only one per cent of the valid votes cast in the constituency. In the General Elections of 1962, the Party set up a candidate for Rajnandgaon Parliamentary seat of the District, but lost it polling 12,662 (11.56 per cent) valid votes cast in the constituency. The Party also set up five candidates for five Legislative Assembly seats-Dondi-Lohara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes), Balod, Bhilai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes), Rajnandgaon and Lal Bahadur Nagar (Reserved for Scheduled Castes) of the District, but lost all of them.

In the Fourth General Elections of 1967, the Party put up a candidate for Rajnandgaon Parliamentary constitueny of the District, but lost it polling 48,004 (18 per cent) valid votes in the constituency. The Party also set up five candidates for the five Legislative Assembly seats viz., Bhilai, Balod, Dongargaon, Dongargarh and Khairagarh, but lost all of the them.

A candidate of the Party was in the field from Rajnandgaon Constituency during the Mid-Term Lok Sabha Elections of 1971. He secured 16,748 (6.62 per cent) valid votes and lost.

Scheduled Caste Federation

In the First General Elections of 1951-52, the Party set up a candidate for the Double-Member Parliamentary seat Bilaspur-Durg-Raipur but lost it by polling 6.6 per cent of the valid votes cast in the constituency. The Party also set up two candidates for Kuthari and Gandai Vidhan Sabha seats, but lost both the seats polling 8 and 2 per cent valid votes, respectively.

In General Elections of 1957, the Party set up four candidates for four Legislative Assembly seats, viz., Bhilai, Dongargarh, Dongargaon and Rajnandgaon but lost all of them, polling 5, 4, 11 and 5 per cent of the valid votes, respectively.

NEWS PAPERS

In the year 1947, a Hindi fortnightly named *Praja Bandhu* appeared from Khairagarh but the periodical ceased its publication in the following year. In October, 1947, a Hindi weekly paper *Zindgi* was started at Durg. This non-party paper appears to have ceased and restarted publication thrice till the year 1954. The publication was finally stopped in 1961. In the month of August of the year 1948, *Swatantra Bharat*, a Hindi fortnightly, started publication which enjoyed a short life-span and the centre of publication of this fortnightly was Rajnandgaon. From the same centre appeared *Chitra Sansar*, a Hindi monthly, in March, 1950. It ceased in October of the same year. Rajnandgaon town also witnessed the publication of *Janatantra*, a Hindi weekly, on the 26th January, 1951. A weekly *Sabera* in Hindi appeared from the 15th August, 1956. The weekly registered itself with the Registrar of News-papers in India and continued till the year 1962. Subsequently, it ceased to exist. The *Jwalamukhi*, a Hindi weekly paper, began its publication at Durg from the year 1958, and it was in circulation in 1967. In the year 1959, a Hindi weekly, named *Bharat Kesari*, started its publication at Rajnandgaon. It was registered till the year 1961.

During years subsequent to 1958 a few periodicals of the District appear to have enjoyed a short span of life and ceased. Among these figure *Prerana*, *Abhiyan* and *Chetawani*. In the year 1960, a Hindi monthly, named *Sahu Sandesh*, started its publication at Durg. Bhilai Steel Project started its bilingual monthly *Bhilai Samchar* (Hindi and English) from 1962, at Bhilai. The year 1963 witnessed the apperance of three periodicals of the District. These included *Chhattisgarh Sahyogi*, a Hindi weekly of Durg, *Bhilai Shramik Awahan*, a Hindi weekly, devoted to the cause of labour, from Balod and *Shanti-ki-Devi*, a monthly from Durg.

During the years 1965 to 1967 the following periodicals were started in the District. *Chintak*, a Hindi weekly from 15th August, 1965 (Durg), *Agrawal Jagat*, a Hindi weekly from 26th January, 1966 (Durg), *Ananta*, a Hindi monthly (Bhilai) in January, 1966 (ceased), *Panch Nirmit*, a Hindi weekly (Balod) from

9th March, 1965, *Kamgar Mitra*, a Hindi weekly and *Chhattisgarh*, a Hindi bi-weekly, both of Durg in October, 1966. From the 1st January, 1967 a Hindi weekly, called *Shrama Dev*, started its publication from Durg. Besides, *Durg Times* in Hindi and *Socialist Worker* in English appeared as weeklies from Bhilai.

Extra-District Publications

The reading public of the District still relies for news and views on newspapers and periodicals published out side the District within and without the State. Names of those newspapers and periodicals commanding sizable circulation in the District are given below:—

As regards the Hindi dailies of the State it may be mentioned that the *Nai Dunia* (Raipur), the *Mahakaushal* (Raipur), the *Yugadharma* (Raipur), the *Nava Bharat* (Raipur) and the *Madhya Desh* (Bhopal) are used by the reading public of the District. Hindi extra-State dailies, which are in common circulation in the District, include the *Nava Bharat Times* (Bombay and Delhi), the *Hindustan* (Delhi), and *Veer Arjun* (Delhi). Hindi weeklies, viz., the *Dinaman* (Bombay), the *Dharmayuga* (Bombay), *Saptahik Hindustan* (Delhi), the *Blitz* (Hindi) and the *Panchajanya* (Delhi) have good circulation in the District.

The Hindi monthlies like *Parag, Sarita, Sarika, Kalyan, Navaneet, Manohar Kahaniya*, etc., are also popularly read by the Hindi knowing pubilc. Besides, a few other English periodicals like *Film Fair*, *Screen*, *Femina*, etc., are read by the people.

Among the English dailies of the State, figure *Hitavada* and *Madhya Pradesh Chronicle* (both published from Bhopal). English extra-State papers, which enjoy a fair circulation in the District, include the *Amrit Bazar Patrika* (Calcutta), the *Statesman* (Calcutta), the *Times of India* (Bombay and Delhi), the *Nagpur Times* (Nagpur), the *Hitavada* (Nagpur), the *Free Press Journal* (Bombay), the *Hindustan times* (Delhi) and the *Hindu* (Madras). English weeklies the *Blirz*, the *Illustated Weekly* (both from Bombay) and the *Link* (Delhi) have a fair circulation in the District.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Shishu Kalyan Kendra, Durg

This Child Welfare Centre was established in 1938 by the Red-Cross Society with the aim of promoting welfare activities for childern and women. Later on, the Centre was transferred to the Municipal Council, Durg. The Centre provides free medical help to children and women, distributes milk among children free of charge and runs a midwifery training class. Annually about 8,000 persons are benefitied by these welfare activities of the Centre.

Shri Gujarati Shikshan Sangh, Rajnandgaon

The Sangh, established in 1955 and registered in 1957, aims at teaching young children through the medium of Gujarati language. It runs a Bal Mandir and a primary school. The former receives annual grant-in-aid from the State Government to the tune of about Rs. 2,400 to 3,000. In the years 1963-64 and 1964-65 it also received Rs. 1,000 as grant-in-aid from the local Municipal Committee. During the last five years ending 1965-66, about 500 girls and boys took advantage of the Bal Mandir. In the same period about 260 boys and girls were benefited by the primary school of the Sangh. The financial resources of the Sangh include, donations, membership fee, grants, rents from building and interest on fixed deposits.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Balod

(*20°45′ N*; *81°15′ E*)

Situated on the left bank of the Tandula river, Balod is the headquarters village of Sanjari-Balod Tahsil. It is 56 km. to the south of Durg and 54.4 km. to the south-east of Rajnandgaon. It is also a railway station on the Bhilai Junction-Dalli Rajhara branch line of the South Eastern Railway. This large and old village possesses numerous temples and a ruined fort. To the east end of the village there are several old temples. A group of seven temples standing on the bank of a small square tank called Kapileshwara consists of two temples built of the fragments of older temples A small temple of Kapileshwara consists of a cell with a small portico on four pillars in front. This Shiva temple has a figure of Ganesha over the door. A four-armed statue with *nandi* on the pedestal is installed inside. A bas-relief, representing Hanuman, well smeared with vermilion lies outside.

Next to it, and touching it, stands another temple having a pyramidal roof broken into steps instead of the tall tower roof. Opposite the first temple stands a small temple of similar design having a tower roof. The central sculptured figure over the entrance is that of Ganesh. Touching it on its north side is a large temple consisting of two distinct small temples, now connected together by a pillared hall. It is also a Shive temple as the figure of Ganesha is sculptured over the entrance of its northern cell.

On the north stands a small modern temple and a tank or *baoli* with cut-stone *ghats* and walls all round. On the west edge of the tank and on the site of an ancient temple there is a modern temple. This temple, the largest here appears to have had a *mandapa* in front, which is now in ruin. The temple consists of the cell of the original temple. The site has yielded an inscribed pillar of a *mandapa* and two other inscriptions of the period later than tenth or eleventh century A. D. A single temple and remains of another are located at a short distance to the south-east of the above group. This temple, though small, deserves mention on account of its architectural beauty.

The fort of the Maratha period stands on an elevated ground encircled by a wide ditch on three sides and is in ruins. Walls, gates and towers of the

fort are in a dilapidated condition. The walls near the west gate are ornamented with sculptured figures of Hanuman. There is also a bas-relief of Ganesha and Hanuman over one gate-way. This gate-way is in the form of a square chamber with fine and lofty archways. The walls on the three sides away from the tank known as Budha Tank were strong and high, while the wall on the tank side was low and weak. The entire length of embankment of this Budha Tank on fort-side is lined with stones set in the form of steps with regular bathing *ghats*. There are numerous small temples on the banks which are of little architectural interest. The Budha tank contains plenty of water, which even in years of drought, can be used for irrigating lands of several villages. There are in the village, as many as 25 tanks in some of which pisciculture is practised.

The village is also rich in respect of *sati* pillars found on the banks of all tanks in the village and in the fort. One of the *sati* pillars deserves mention as it bears three inscriptions commemorating three separate immolations. One side of it bears the date, Samvat 1005[1] (948 A. D.) and a long inscription which is now worn and illegible. Below it, is another inscription but the matter as well as the date are illegible. The pillars on another face has three sculptured compartments. A man and a woman on either side of a *lingam* are sculptured in the uppermost compartment. Figures on the second are broken, while the one, seated cross-legged, adorns the lowest compartment. Below these and written along the length of the pillar is a three-lined inscription in the characters ascribed to the second century A. D. This inscription is very important as it is one of the earliest known *sati* pillars of the country. The importance of this *sati* pillar is further heightened by the sculptures which show that here, at that early period, when Buddhism was the predominant religion in other parts of India, Shaivism flourished and *sati* was practised here.[1]

The village is an important retail marketing centre, where a weekly market is held on every Wednesday. According to the Census of 1961 the village had a population of 6,121.

Banbarad

(21° 20′ N; 81° 25′ E)

This village of Durg Tahsil lies 22.4 kilometres north-east of the tahsil headquarters. The importance of the village is due to the existence of an old temple dedicated to Rama, along with the remains of some other old buildings, the images of a cow and a calf, a small stone well and various tanks including a sacred one called Gatwa. It is said that people who commit the sin of killing a cow should come and take a holy bath here before worshipping the images for removal of that sin. It is popularly believed that Banbarad was once a residence of the Kalachuri Kings of Ratanpur. In 1961 its population was 1,684.

1 Archaeological Survey Report, Vol. VII, p. 137.

Bhilainagar

(21° 10′ N; 81° 20′ E)

Bhilainagar, housing the Bhilai Steel Project, now occupies a place of pride in the industrial map of the country. Bhilai Project is one of the three biggest Steel Works in the public sector, managed by the Hindustan Steel Company Ltd., a Government of India undertaking. It is about 12.8 Km. to the east of Durg and is a railway-station on the South Eastern Railway.

It was constructed as a result of an agreement signed in 1955, between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Soviet Union provided technical and economic assistance for this modern integrated iron and steel works, with an initial capacity of one million tons of steel ingots, further to be increased to 2.5 million tons and subsequently to 3.5 million tons. The Public Relations Officer of the management provides facilities to the visitors for seeing the furnaces, coke oven batteries, rolling mills and other parts of the project.

Besides products of steel and iron, various valuable chemical by-products are largely obtained from coke oven gases by installing Ammonium Sulphate Plant, Bensol Ractification Plant and the Tar Distillation Plant. Bhilainagar produces the largest quantity of saleable pig iron in India.

The township contains a number of parks, play-grounds and clubs. Maitribag, a garden symbolizing the Indo-Soviet friendship, contains a number of orange and mango and other trees jointly planted by cilizens of both the countries. The garden covers an area of about 40.46 hectares.

According to the Census of 1961, in respect of area and population, Bhilainagar is the largest town of the District. It covered an area of 12,415 .46 hectares and its population was 86,116.

Chaurel

(20° 50′ N; 81° 10′ E)

A small village of Durg Tahsil, chaurel was formerly a part of Gunderdehi *zamindari*. Its distance from the Tandula river is only 1.6 Km. towards the west. The only importance of this place lies in the fact that there are some good stone carvings. In 1961 it had a population of 1,086.

Chhapri

(21° 55′ N; 80° 10′ E)

It is a small village of Kawardha Tahsil lying 17.6 km. to the north-west of the tahsil headquarters. The village is of interest as the old temple of so-called Boramdeo is located near the village in a small circular valley amidst the Maikala range of hills. The temple stands at the western end of a long

embankment which forms a large lake at the north side of the valley. The existence of this temple, supposed to be dedicated to the totem deity of Gonds, is quoted as a proof of the antiquity of the Gond rule in this region. But in fact, this antiquity was based on a misreading of a modern inscription. Originally, the temple was dedicated to Vishnu whose image is installed over the middle of the three entrances. The figure of a sanke-god, once said to be in the temple, was found there even in the last quarter of the 19th century. Instead there was a large figure of bearded man sitting with joined hands which was probably of the Raja's adviser. Three more inscriptions were also found on its pedestal. The lowermost bore the date of Samvat 840 during the reign of Shri Gopal Deva. The execution of the figure is comparatively better than the sculpture of Naga. On the pedestal of this figure there is a Raja on horse back, his attendant carrying an umbrella and standing behind the king and a female offering food to the horse. To the right is a *jogi* (mendicant) seated with his knees bound. The horseman is probably the builder of the temple. Lakshman Deva Raya, his son Ram Raya and queens Bala Devi, Bhala Devi, Raja Devi, Padma Devi, Sundha Devi and Sila Devi were most probably the actual builders of this temple and they constructed it during the reign of Gopal Deva. The real sculpture consisting of a large group of Lakshmi and Vishnu on their carrier *garud*, which belonged to the temple was subsequently found located under a tree, a few paces eastward. Vishnu is represented by his usual signs, club, shell, discus, etc. This original sculpture of the temple makes it probable that the temple was erected for Lakshmi-Narayana. The same tree also gives shelter to a second such group of smaller size.

As regards the Samvat 840 it is not yet clear whether it is of Chedi, Shaka, or Vikrama era. However, its date may range from 10th to 12th century A.D. The temple is most richly decorated. It is conjectured that the Samvat is of the Chedi era corresponding to A.D. 1089 which falls during the reign of Bhupal Sinha Deva Haihaya. The record of "Magardhwaja Jogi, 700" found on the jamb of the southern door, makes us believe that the temple must be of still older age. It is not clear whether 700 is a date and if it is the date to what era it refers to.

The temple of Boramdeo is of the common plan mostly used in mediaeval temples. It has a square *mandupa*, leading through a small *antarala* or ante-room, into the sanctum. The *mandapa* has four central and 12 side pilasters let into the surrounding walls having three entrances each with a small porch. The sanctum is reached by a descent of five steep steps as the floor of the hall is raised. The sanctum contains a *lingam* which probably replaced the image of Vishnu.

The name Boramdeo was imposed to it by the Gonds, when they came into power here i.e., probably in the 13th or 14th century. Several *sati* monuments dated in Vikrama era are found there and since they use Vikrama era

they can not be of the Haihayas, who had their own era. Thus these monuments belong to the Gonds and are of the fourteenth century A.D.

The tower of the Boramdeo temple is complete upto the top of the *amalaka* fruit which forms the base of the pinnacle the top of which has gone. On the east side of the tower there is a very highly ornamented circular opening. The walls are adorned with three rows of figures of incarnations of Vishnu with Shiva, Kali and Ganesh and many male and female statues in amorous postures, The upper course bears a continuous procession of very boldly sculptured elephants and lions.

Immediately to the north of above temple stands an old brick temple of a peculiar plan having no *mandapa* but a porch in front of the entrance. Its sanctum is of the same size as that of Boramdeo. The tower has lost the upper half portion. The porch, built entirely of stone, retains only an outer pillar and three pilasters. The temple was dedicated to a *lingam* as is clear from a small group of Hara-Gauri existing there. The second group represents a king and a queen with crowns on their heads and their hands joined as in a state of worship. The temple, probably, is contemporary to that of Boramdeo. Close by stands a small brick temple in utterly ruined condition.

Within a kilometre to the south, there are two old temples both containing *lingams*. One has lost its name while Dulhadeo and Marwa Mahal are the names of the other. These names, too, seem to have been imposed by the Gonds. The nameless temple is small and has a small figure of Durga over the entrance with Shiva and Parvati on the jambs. Curiously enough, it is built of stone inside and of brick plastered outside. The roof of the sanctum is formed of large slabs and they cover the corners from centre to centre of each side. This is repeated four times and the small square, thus left, is covered by a single slab. The large Dulha Deo temple is of usual plan and has an open square hall in front of the sanctum. The temple, facing the west is entirely of stone but of much coarser construction and, therefore, of much later date than that of the fine temple of Boramdeo. The open hall contains a loose slab, broken into two pieces and covered with a long inscription in modern Nagari characters. Curiously enough, it is dated in Vikrama Shaka[1] 1406, Jayanama Samvatsara.

The roof of the open hall of the temple is supported on four rows of pillars square in size, with a few plain mouldings and devoid of any carving. This roof is formed by three courses of overlapping in each square and closed by a single stone at top ornamented with a lotus flower. The tower built of granite has two rows of sculptures outside, nearly all of which are erotic. The inscription here is of 37 lines and is said to contain a genealogy of 22 kings of Nagavamsha.

1 Ibid., Vol. XVII, p. 40.

Close to the village there is a hill called Diyabar (Lamp-burning), which is believed to have been kept burning continuously by some supernatural power during the time the temple was under construction.[1]

A religious fair in honour of Boramdeo is annually held here on the 13th dark day of Phalguna and is attended by 7,000 persons. The fair is managed by the Janapada Sabha, Kawardha. The village contained a population of 164 persons according to the Census of 1961.

Dynastic History of Chhuikhadan

The early history of this erstwhile State is rather obscure. The tradition is that the nucleus of the State was formerly the Kondka tract, which was acquired by Mahant Rup Das. The tradition states, that once during the middle of the 18th century the landlord of Parpodi mortgaged the Kondka tract to Rup Das for certain amount. Due to the non-repayment of the debt the borrower had to lose the estate to the lender. This led to a fierce family feud between the two houses. Brahma Das, successor of Rup Das, killed the landlord of Parpodi but was slain himself by the *zamindar's* son. Tulsi Das then came to the *gaddi* and made himself secure by acknowledging the sovereignity of the Bhonsla Raja of Nagpur, who in turn conferred on him the *zamindari* in 1780. The new *zamindar* shifted his headquarters to Chhuikhadan, because Kondka was too close to Parpodi. Nevertheless, his estate was still called the Kondka zamindari. Tulsi Das's son, Mahant Lachhman Das, was recognized by the British Government as a Feudatory Chief. An adoption *Sanad* was granted to him in 1865 and, subsequently, an acknowledgement of fealty was executed.

Another story current about Rup Das is gathered from a Hindi manuscript by an old Diwan of the State. According to his version Rup Das, a near relation of the Maharaja of Udaipur, had strained relations with his family and turned into a *Bairagi*. Thereafter he settled at Panipat, assembled many disciples and purchased a large number of horses. He brought the animals for sale at the court of the Raja of Nagpur. The horses were sold there and he was appointed a *Sardar* in the royal cavalry. Soon the Bhonsla Raja came to know that the landlord of Kondka was not only oppressing his subjects but he was planning to rise in revolt against him. Rup Das was sent there with the cavalry. He killed the landlord and got the estate as a reward in 1750.

Shyam Kishor Das succeeded to the *gaddi* in 1867. Radha Ballabh Das, Digvijay Kishore Das, Bhoodhar Kishore Das and Ritu Parna Kishore Das ruled the State in succession when the Ruler of the State signed the merger agreement on the 15th December, 1947.

1 Durg District Census Hand-book, 1961, p. XVI.

The area and population of the State as recorded in the Census of 1941 were about 396 sq. km. and 32,715, respectively.

Dhamdhakalan

(21°25' N; 81°20'E)

This large and important village of Durg Tahsil is situated about 34 kilometers to the north of the tahsil headquartes, on the road leading to Bemetara. It is said that the village was founded by some Gond brothers who were given the Sardha *pargana* by a Raja of Ratanpur in appreciation of their heroism in capturing a mad elephant. Within this *pargana* these brothers built a large house with two tanks and two temples amidst forests. They selected this place as their abode and on it founded this particular village. Subsequently, its importance was next only to Ratanpur and Raipur itself was known as Dhamdha Raipur to indicate its position.

The remains of an old fort with its two fine gateways are still standing at this place. By popular belief it was constructed by the Gond Chiefs, who were known as the Panchbhaiyas because of their peculiar war tactics of fighting with the enemy in a circular formation by standing back to back. They might or might not have been the descendants of the original founder brothers. The fort itself, standing on the bank of the large Budha tank, contains a few ruined temples. In one of these scared buildings, dedicated to Shiva, a retaining wall and a few steps to the platform were constructed in cut-stone masonry to protect the building from the water of the adjoining tank. The village has another tank and several fine groves of trees.

A small brass-work industry was carried on here. Manufacture of *bidi* and earthen images, busts and statues are the local cottage industries of some importance. Its population in 1961 increased to 4,268 from 2,600 in 1901.

Deo-Baloda

To the west of Bhilainagar and only three kilometers away from Bhilai junction, lies the village Deo-Baloda, an archaeologically important village of Durg Tahsil. There is a ruined but famous temple dedicated to Shiva. In plan this small temple resembles the most of the older shrines in Northern India, but it has some striking similarity with the Bhang Dewal temple at Arang in Raipur District. It is built of standstone and contains a sanctum, with a small ante-room, in front of which is a square *mandapa* or open hall supported on pillars. One entrance is towards the east and the second entrance is on the north side of the hall leading up from a small tank, with stone steps all round.

The floor of the *mandapa* is raised above the ground and from there a descent of four steps leads the visitor into the sanctum. Certain differentiating characteristics in the execution of the external sculptures lead to the conclusion

that the *mandapa* is perhaps a later addition. Thus, in the procession of elephants round the plinth, the animals of the sanctum have their legs wrongly placed, while those of the open hall are correctly represented.

The *sanctum* has two rows of sculptures outside depicting incarnations of Vishnu viz., Varaha, Narasimha, Vamana and Krishna playing the flute. Several Shaiva sculptures such as female figures holding *trishuls* or tridents, two Bhainsasuri Devis and two figures of Ganesha also figure there. Some of the scenes represent boar and antelope hunts with dogs. The men are equipped with spears, bows and arrows. In two of the scenes a man is being carried in a litter, with a curved pole. The litter is akin to a bed-stead with four legs. In one scene a king is represented with an attendant, carrying an umbrella. One scene represents an eight-armed goddess holding an elephant high above her head. The carving of the sculpture is bold but the drawing is poor and the execution coarse. There are two groups of *mithuna* figures.[1] There is a figure of a bull (*nandi*) outside the temple facing the entrance with several uninscribed *sati* pillars.

The figure of Ganesha centrally placed over the entrance of the *sanctum* proves that originally the temple was built for the *lingam* or phallus. Over the figure of Ganesha there is a figure of Saraswati, the goddess of learning. The four central pillars of the *mandapa* are very richly moulded and are highly polished. The architraves covering these pillars are ornamented with processions of elephants. Beyond the temple many uninscribed *sati* monuments are located. The one, which represents a man seated with joined hands between two standing females, is the most remarkable one. Above, there is a female hand pointed upwards with the sun and the moon on two sides.

The lime plastering over the walls of the sanctum has been removed and the sculptured and moulded panels have been exposed to view in 1961-62. All the open joints in the *mandapa* as well as plinth have been recess pointed.

According to the Census of 1961 its population was 1,919 persons.

Deokar

(21°35′ *N*: 81°20′ *E*)

This village of Bemetara Tahsil lies on the Surhi river, at a distance of 27.2 km. south-west of the tahsil headquarters. The place contains a few ruined temples and *sati* pillars.

Dongargarh

(21°0′ N; 81°50′ E)

An important town of Khairagarh Tahsil, Dongargarh is a station on the

1 Archaeological Survey Report, Vol. XVII p. 7.

Bombay-Hawrah (via Nagpur) railway line with a substantial railway colony. Its distance from the district heaquartes is 80 kilometres.

Dongargarh is supposed to occupy a portion of the site of the ancient city of Kamantipuri. Till about 1840 it was the proud possessor of six old famous temples, but subsequently they were demolished in the time of the Bhonsla rulers of Nagpur. Their material was freely used for the construction of bridges on the former Nagpur-Raipur road.

"Within a small radius from Dongagarh there are numerous ruined tanks, and far around........there are remains of old foundations, built of stones and massive bricks"[1]. An old temple, standing on a hill and known as the Bomlai Devi temple enshrines a goddess of the same name. She is worshipped on the *Pola* day in *Shravana*. The temple is said to have been built by Raja Kamsen of Dongargarh, when king Vikramaditya was ruling at Ujjain. The local tank, known as Kamkandla is named after the concubine of Kamsen, noted for her extermely good looks and singing talent. On the Bomlai hill there is a large stone called Motiyari. A popular story associated with it is that, once 147 dancing girls (*Sat-Agar-Sat-Kori-motiyarin*) came down to the royal court of Dongargarh from Nandgaon to show their talent before the king. But the mother of the king, apprehending that her son might fall to the charm of any of these girls, prepared a solution of turmeric powder and ordered her son to sprinkle it on them. The water fell on one girl only and turned her into the aforesaid stone figure. A ten feet high stone pillar with Persian inscription was found near the Motiabir tank and was later deposited in the Nagpur Museum. Another stone inscription was found on the Bomlai hill, but its characters could not be deciphered. On the occasion of the Navaratri festival two annual fairs are held here during March-April and again during September-October. The attendance at both the fairs ranges between 4,000 and 5,000 persons.

Dongargarh is an important trading centre in Chhattisgarh region. It has got a municipality. Here soap, brick, tiles and textiles industries are run on co-operative basis. The town contains a commerce college. There is a post and telegraph office with a public call-office attached to it. The population was 14,119, according to the Census of 1961.

Durg

(21°1' N and 81°17' E)

The headquarters town of the District, Durg lies on the eastern bank of Seonath river. It is also an important railway station on the Bombay-Howrah (via Nagpur) railway line, at a distance of 1,096 kilometres from Bombay and 857,6 kilometres from Howrah. The Great Eastern road passes through this

1. Ibid., p. 3.

town. The place, etymologically meaning the fort suggests its having been a well fortified place of some consequence in Southern Kosala.

In one inscription, now deposited at the Raipur Museum, mention is made of Sivapura and Sivadurga in association with a king named Siva Deva. It is quite likely that the name Sivadurga or Seo-durg derived from the Seonath (river) gradually shortened into Durg. The town appears to have been founded by Jagapal about tenth century A.D. Jagapal is stated in the Rajim inscription as belonging to the Rajamala race, founded by an illustrious Sahilla at Vadahra (a place near Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh). Jagpal became an officer of the treasury under Raja Ratan Deo of Ratanpur and by dint of his meritorious service became a feudatory chief under the latter's kingship. He conquered for Ratan Deo a number of adjoining countries and got Durg with 700 villages as a reward for his good service.

The town contains the ruins of a mud fort, said to be of great antiquity. The Marathas made it the base of their operations in Chhattisgarh in 1741. At the same time they formed an entrenched camp on a high altitude. The modern town stands on this high ground which gives a birds-eye view of the surrounding country. Traces of a moat encircling the mud fort are visible and small tanks have been formed by banks thrown across it. A headless figure of the Buddha and numerous stone footstools, resembling Buddhist sculptures at Patna, Kosambi, Bhita and Shah-dheri are scattered here. These are generally about 12 inches long, 6 inches high and have 4 small feet. At some places they are collected in heaps and worshipped with red anointments.

According to local belief the same Jagapal or Jagatpal constructed this fort. Within its premises there is a temple of Hanumana. Apart from the famous Sarna-Bandha tank the town has several others from which water is obtained for irrigating the betel vine gardens. As far as the local legend can be relied upon, the Sarna-Bandha tank was excavated overnight by nine lakhs of Uriyas and the Tukna Jharoni mound near the railway-station was created during this operation by the waste earth from their baskets. About 8 kilometres north-west of Durg there is a large village called Nagpura. It houses on old Jain temple. According to tradition the three temples of Arang, Deo-Baloda and Nagpura were built in one and the same night.

After the establishment of the Bhilai Steel Plant the town has become the most important industrial centre of Madhya Pradesh. Among cottage industries mention may be made of brass-work, bell-metal industry known as *phulkans*, oil pressing, rice husking and a small weaving industry, run on co-operative basis. Bi-weekly market is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The educational institutions of the town comprise one arts and science post-graduate college, one law college, one polytechnic institution and three libraries. It contains the head post and telegraph office of the District, police-station (but

no jail), hospital, two *Ayurvedic* and homoeopathic dispensaries, family planning clinic and maternity and child welfare centre.

Gunderdehi

(20°55′ N; 81°15′ E)

It is a large village of Durg Tahsil, lying at a distance of 27.2 km. from the District town. The Tandula river almost bisected the Gunderdehi Zamindari into north and south. The area of this estate was about 210 sq. km. and the number of persons inhabiting this area was 19,719 in 1901.

One Makhansingh Thakur of the Kawar tribe helped the Raja of Ratanpur to repel an attack of the Bastar ruler in 1525 A. D. and as a reward got the estate of Gunderdehi, comprising 48 villages in *jagir* together with the title of Rai. His estate was enlarged by a further grant of Balod *pargana*, where he fixed up his residence. Subsequently in 1540, he acquired 4 *taluks* of Rajoli, Armori, Arjunda and Gureda, each containing 12 villages. When the Bhonsla ruler Bala Bimbaji came into power he took away those four *taluks* and fixed four *ashrafis* as *takoli*. This was the state of affairs till the time of Raghuji Bhonsla when Agnew took away 28 villages from the landlord's possessions and fixed the *takoli* at Rs. 5,020 in Nagpur coins.

Gurur

(21°40′ N; 81°20′E)

About 20.8 kilometres from Balod on the road to Dhamtari lies this small village of Sanjari-Balod Tahsil. There are some remains of temples of mediaeval Brahmanic style near the village. There are several tanks, most of which have gone dry. To the north-west of the village there is one large tank, close to which are the ruins of a temple having a cell roofed in the style of intersecting squares and surmounted by a tower roof. In front, there is a four-pillard portico. A figure of Ganesha is sculptured on its entrance.

To the north of the above small temple remains of a much larger temple are noticed. At a short distance again four pillars of another ruined temple are standing. Originally this temple, surrounded by minor shrines, was very large. One of the pillars had an inscription which was long ago peeled off and left only with two letters of the characters of the second century A. D. The temple was situated on a large embanked tank. The four pillars standing appear to have belonged to the central part of the great hall.

Thus, formerly, the village must have occupied an important position on one of the most important ancient roads crossing this region. Cunningham thought that once an important old route passed through this area. Probably, it started near Bhandak or Dewalwara and branched at Gurur into two, one bifurcation leading to Ganjam via Kanker, Sihawa and Jaugada which contains

an Ashokan edict and the other to Cuttack via Dhamtari, Rajim and Savaripura.[1]

About the temples of Gurur there is a legend that the temples and gods were travelling from Rajim to Kanker but en route they were forced to make a halt at Gurur by the advent of darkness of the night. Thus arrested they remained at Gurur. The temples of this place appear to have belonged to the Shaiva sect.

Within a kilometre to the east of the village remains of a temple consisting of a towered cell exist. Near this temple, and near and about the village, stand numerous uninscribed *sati* pillars which are of little interest. However, near the temple, first noticed to the north-west of the village stands a pillar probably of a *sati*, which was originally inscribed on three of its faces besides being sculptured on one. All the inscriptions have now been peeled off. The long inscription found incomplete on its north face is of importance because it is of the Chalukyas. The expression 'Tilaka Chalukya' occurs in it and it "proves that the Chalukya power certainly extended to this place, and the great temples which now lie ruined were most probably built by earlier Rajas of this dynasty."[2] The small temples of the place are ascribed to the eleventh century while the great temple in ruins is assigned to a much earlier date.

The village contains primary, middle and higher secondary schools, a primary health centre, a dispensary, a branch post-office, a police station and *gram* and *nyaya panchayats*.

In 1961 its population increased to 1,179 persons from 700 in 1901.

Kawardha

(22°0′ N, 81°15′ E)

Headquarters of the erstwhile Kawardha Feudatory State and now the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name, Kawardha is an important place of the District. This municipal town is pleasantly situated on the bank of Sankri river near the foot of the Saletekri range of hills. Kawardha is connected with Bemetara, Simga and the Tilda railway-station by a 86.4 kilometres long road. It is also connected by roads with Dongargarh through Chhuikhadan and Khairagarh. The Bilaspur-Mandla road also crosses this place.

Its name is probably derived from its long association with the Kabirpanthi sect, from the actual word *Kabirdham*, meaning the abode of saint Kabir. Even today it is an important place for that religious sect.

1. Ibid., p. 140.
2. Ibid.

The ruling family of the erstwhile State claimed its descent from the Gond ruling family of Garha-Mandla. It was also related to the laddlord family of village Padaria in Bilaspur District. When Thakur Rajpal Singh was on the *gaddi* of Kawardha he shifted his seat to village Nawagarh, about 10 kilometres from Kawardha. Ruins of the palace of this ruler can be spotted here.

The town contains a modern temple of Rama which seems to possess many pieces of architecture and sculpture of some temple of former days. Several fine old pillars and bases with several jambs of doorways, ornamented with twisted snakes carved upon them, are found here. On a loose slab a worn out inscription of 13 lines is also there. About 11.2 kilometres away from the town is a small village known as Jhirna. It has a sacred fountain called Narbada. A big fair of about 5,000 persons is held on the *Magha Purnima* day. Another place of interest lying to the north-east of Kawardha is the village known as Pondi, where the most famous weekly cattle market of the tahsil is held on Fridays. In Kawardha itself the weekly market is held on Thursday.

Mention may be made of electricity, post-office, police-station, and a hospital located here. The population of this place in 1961 was 10,117.

Dynastic history of Kawardha

It is known from a Sanskrit inscription in the Bhoram Deo temple at Chhapri, a village 18 km. west of Kawardha town, that this region was held by a line of Nagvamsi rulers in the 11th century A.D.

Kawardha as an estate was originally held by the landlords of Bhonda, who were in subsidiary alliance with the Gond ruling family of Mandla. Mahabali Singh, brother of Prithi Singh, the *zamindar* of Pandaria *zamindari* rendered military service to his overlord, Mandla Raja during his fight with the ruler of Sagar and got the State as a reward. The story is that both Mahabali Singh and the landlord of Bhonda offered help to their sovereign but when they were called to receive their rewards Mahabali Singh induced the *zamindar* of Bhonda to stay behind. He then went to Mandla and managed to get the whole State for himself, by reporting that the *zamindar* of Bhonda had escaped. Probably for this reason the ruling family of the erstwhile state of Kawardha claim its descent from the Gond Raj family of Mandla. They are also related to the *zamindar* families of Mandla and Pandaria of Bilaspur District. The Kawardha branch was considered to be junior to the Pandaria family. In case of failure of heirs the custom was to give the *gaddi* to the younger son of the *zamindar* of Pandaria.

According to a different version Mahabali Singh got the State from Raghuji, the Bhonsla Raja of Nagpur for military services rendered to him. Mahabali Singh ruled for 50 years. His son Ujiyar too reigned for about 47 years. on his death he was succeeded by his son Tok Singh. Bahadur Singh, Rajpal

Singh, Jadunath Singh and Thakur Dharamraj Singh ruled the State in succession until December, 1947 when it was merged in the District.

During the time of Thakur Rajpal Nawagoan was his capital. It is about 9.6 km. from Kawardha. A ruined palace of that Chief is still traceable here. Of course, it is an uninhabited village.

Formerly Kawardha State included Khamaria *pargana* but the Chief lost it to Khairagarh Chief in satisfaction of a debt. Sahaspur Lohara, likewise, originally belonged to Kawardha. Mahabali Singh made a grant of it to Son Singh for his maintenance.

At the time of the merger, the State was having an area of about 2,025 sq. km. with a population of 77,253. It was having a State Representative Assembly, consisting of 9 representatives and 6 official members. Education was free and primary education was compulsory.

Khairagarh

(21° 25' N; 81° 0' E)

Situated at equal distance of 36.8 kilometres from both Rajnandgaon and Dongargarh this tahsil headquarters town was the seat of the erstwhile Feudatory State of the same name upto 31st December, 1947. The modern town is connected by metalled roads with Durg, Nandgaon, Dongargarh, Kawardha, Chhuikhadan, etc.

Its only object of archaeological interest is an old temple dedicated to Rukharswami, the great saint, who passed a major part of his life meditating in its deep catechu forest. It is said that while he was in a state of deep meditation, the local Chief Tikait Raj came there a—hunting. Attracted by his saintly demeanour, the Raja set up a hut for the sage, which afterwards turned into a temple. The *swami* had deep foresight into the future and great supernatural power. He prophesied that the old Raja, who had his only son lost and was running his sixtieth year would get two more sons. The prediction proved true. After that the *swami* went away, but once again appeared to Tikait Raj to instruct him precisely how to defeat his enemies. At the end the sage took *Samadhi*, while still alive. The ruling family of erstwhile Khairagarh State claims its descent from Sabha Singh of the Nagavamsi Rujput dynasty of Chhota-Nagpur.[1]

The only music University of Madhya Pradesh named Indira Sangeet Vishwavidyalay is also located at Khairagarh. The town had a population of 6,576 persons in 1961 as against 4,656 in 1901.

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1 Chhattishgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 112.

Dynastic History of Khairagarh

The ruling family of the erstwhile State of Khairagarh is an off-shoot of the Nagavamsi Kings of Chhota Nagpur. A ruler of this family was Sabha Singh. His younger son Lakshminidhi migrated to Kholwa and settled there. His descendant, Shyamghana, established himself firmly as the *zamindar* of that place in 1740. During a battle between Raja Maharaj Shah of Garha-Mandla and the landlord of Lanji, he took side with the latter's family. The Gond king defeated both of them and took over Lanji. He, however, allowed Shyamghana as a feudatory under his overlordship. He was also permitted to enlarge his estate.

Shyamghana's son and successor, Daryao Singh, had a very short rule. The latter's son Anup Singh's territory comprised 132 villages covering the *parganas* of Kholwa, Khairagarh and Lachhna. Anup Singh's feudatory rights were recognised by Sheoraj Shah, Mandla Raja, after the death of his father Maharaj Shah. After Anup Singh, his son Madho Singh and grandson Kharag Singh ruled one after the other. During the reign of Kharag Rai the landlord of Lanji, aided by the Bhonsla Raja of Nagpur, attacked Kholwa and defeated him.

Kharag Rai was summoned before the Nagpur Raja who recognized him as a Feudatory Chief in 1759.

During Tikait Rai's rule a feud arose over Khamaria *pargana* between Ujiyar Singh and Sardar Singh of Kawardha in which the Chief of Khairagarh helped Sardar Singh with men and money. The *pargana* came into Sardar Singh's hand for a short time only, because soon he had to cede it to Tikait Rai in satisfaction of an unpaid loan. This passing of a portion of Kawardha State into the possession of Khairagarh Chief was confirmed by the Nagpur Raja.

In 1816 Tikait Rai overpowered the *zamindar* of Dongargarh at the order of Nagpur Raja against whom the *zamindar* had risen in revolt. In the operation Khairagarh Chief was helped by the ruler of Rajnadgaon. As a reward for this military service, Tikait Rai was granted the whole *zamindari*. When his minor son Drigpal Singh became the owner of the *gaddi*, the Chief of Rajnandgaon pressed his claim for a slice of Dongargarh in return for his military service previously rendered. The estate was, therefore, divided equally between the two, Khairagarh ruler retaining Dongargarh, Pathri and half of Singarpur; and Dongargaon, Chhuria, and the rest of Singarpur going to the Chief of Rajnandgaon.

Drigpal Singh died in 1833. His brother Mahapal Singh ruled for a few months only and was succeeded by his son, Lal Fateh Singh. During his rule Nagpur Raj lapsed to the British Government in 1854 and the tribute was again raised to Rs. 39,000 (Company rupees). In 1865 Khairagarh was recognized as a Feudatory State with Lal Fateh Singh receiving an adoption *sanad*.

Owing to maladministration the administration was taken over by the British Government in 1873. Lal Fateh Singh died in 1874, but the State was restored to his eldest son, Umrao Singh, only in 1883. He was given the title of Raja in 1887 as a personal distinction. His son Kamal Narayan, who succeeded his father in 1890, also received the same title as a personal award in 1896. Two years later the title was made hereditary. After Kamal Narayan's death in 1908, his minor son Raja Lal Bahadur Singh was recognized as his successor, but the State was again taken over by the British owing to the Chief's minority.

The Ruler signed the merger agreement on the 15th December 1947. The State then became part of Durg District in the Central Provinces. The area and population of the State in 1941 were about 2,340 sq. km. and 1,73,829 persons, respectively.

Mohara

(21° 5′ N; 81° 5′ E;)

A small village of Rajnandgaon Tahsil, its distance from the tahsil headquarters is only about 4.8 km. The river Sheonath flows past by this village. A water-works pumping-station is situated in the village. In near poximity there is a temple of Siva, in whose honour an annual fair meets on the auspicious occasion of *Shivaratri*. The fair, drawing a big crowd of about 1,25,000 persons, is managed by the Janapada Sabha of Rajnandgaon. The village had a population of 1,019 in 1961.

Mohgaon

A village in Rajnandgaon Tahsil, it is situated on the river Surhi. The place is called Raja Mohgaon in memory of Raja Nizam Shah of Garha-Mandla dynasty. There is a temple in the village. In 1961 it was peopled by 252 persons.

Nawagarh

(21°35′ N, 81°35′ E)

Nawagarh, meaning a new fort, is a large village in Bemetara Tahsil. It is situated on the eastern bank of the Morangia river at a distance of 24 kilometres from the tahsil headquarters in the north-east direction and about 100.8 kilometres from the District headqarters.

The place appears to be old as it contains an ancient temple dedicated to Khedapati. The name is said to have engraved on it with the date of its construction in Samvat 701 corresponding to 647 A.D. Its name appears in the list of 36 forts of the Haihayvamshi Rajas, from which this region came to be known as Chhattisgarh. It was also at one time the capital of the Gond rulers, who ruled over a considerable extent of the surrounding country. Two tanks, construction of which is associated with these rulers, and the ditch of their fort,

still remain. It continued to be the headquarters of a tahsil under the Marathas and under the British Government until 1864. A red sandstone is available here from which stone bowls and stools, and small crucibles are made. Other important cottage industries are weaving and brass-work. Weekly markets are held here on Sundays.

The village has a police-station, a branch post-office, a primary health centre, and an allopathic dispensary. Its population in 1961 increased to 2,816 from 2,500 persons in 1901.

Odarbandh

(21°00' N; 80°30' E)

About 22.4 km. to the west of Rajnandgaon lies this village of the same Tahsil. It contains a large and picturesque tank, which has given its name to the place. Odarbandh means a tank dug by the Odeas or Urias. The story connects it with a Raja, who tried to seduce one Odni damsel. To save herself from the lust of that man she fled to this village and burnt herself alive. The Uria inhabitants excavated a tank overnight in her memory and left the place en mass.

According to the Census of 1961, Odarbandh contains a population of 209 souls.

Pandadah

(21°20' N, 80°50' E)

A small village in Rajnandgaon Tahsil it lies on the bank of the river Jharjharaghat, a tributary of the Amner, 25 miles from Rajnandgaon. The village possesses a temple, dedicated to Lord Jagannath, where a small fair meets every year. The weekly market is held on every Thursday. A branch post office, and a dispensary are located here. In 1961 the population was 774.

Patan

(20°45' N, 80°45' E)

A large village of Durg Tahsil, it lies at a distance of 32 kilometres to the south-east of Durg. The name is a currupted form of Pattan (Town). Like Nawagarh this place was also counted as one of the 36 *garhs* (forts) of Chhattisgarh. Its old name was Bhangpur Patan meaning "the town of injustice". According to a local saying "this is the lawless town, where nobody cares for the king, and vegetables and sweets both sell at two pice a seer". There are 22 tanks in the village. One of these, called the Agar tank, is old and also known as *Buddhinasa* or "the destroyer of wits." It is believed that people became mad by drinking its waters.

It has a hospital, a maternity and child welfare centre, a police-station, and post-office. In 1961 its population was 2,390.

Rajnandgaon

(21°6 N, 81°0 E)

The headquarters town of Rajnandgaon Tahsil and also the seat of the erstwhile Feudatory State of the same name is located on the Calcutta-Bombay (via Nagpur) main line of the South-Eastern Railway at a distance of about 24 kilometres west of Durg. The river Seonath flows at a distance of about 4 kilometres from the town. It is connected with good roads, with Durg, Raipur, Nagpur, Ambagarh, Khairagarh and Bastar.

Some clubs and cudgels of the former Gond Raja Jitrai of Nandgaon are preserved here, in a corner behind the entrance gate of one of the palaces, and they are worshipped. A tomb, preserved also in the palace compound, contains the remains of local Muhammadan landlord. The modern town contains many good buildings and two nice gardens, viz., Rani Bag and Baldeo Bag. The palace of the ex-Chief covers an area of about two hectares, while another palace has been donated to the public by the royal family.

There is a cotton mill here called as the B.N.C. Mill, originally named as the Central Provinces Cotton Mill. A ginning factory is attached to this mill. The Government Regional Printing Press is also located here. Two annual fairs are held here. One is held during November-December in honour of the Goddess Kali drawing a crowd of about 5,000 persons. For the other, which is known as the Urs Saiyad Baba Atalshah, no definite date is fixed. It is managed by the Urs Committee and visited by 10,000 persons. The annual Siva Mela at the Mohara village meets during October-November and attracts a multitude of 25,000 persons.

According to the Census of 1961, the town had a population of 44,678 persons.

Dynastic History of Rajnandgaon

Before the integration of Rajnandgaon State in Durg District, Rajnandgaon used to be ruled by a dynasty of *mahant* rajas. The first person of this royal house was Prahlad Das, a *Bairagi* shawl merchant of Sohapur in the Punjab. Before him there might have been some local Gond rajas.[1] Towards the end of the 19th century Prahlad Das migrated to Ratanpur and settled there. He acquired considerable wealth and at the time of his death bestowed it on his desciple, Mahant Hari Das, because according to custom the *mahants* were to observe celibacy and thus had no sons.

1. Ibid., p. 88.

Hari Das became the spiritual guide of the seven queens of his overlord Bimbaji, who allowed him the right of realising two rupees from every village of the Ratanpur Kingdom. With the money thus acquired Hari Das started his business of money-lending. The landlord of Pandadah took a loan on the security of his estate itself and lost it to the lender for non payment of the debt. Ram Das, the disciple of Hari Das, was placed in charge of the newly acquired property, who resided at Somani and acquired the Nandgaon zamindari in the same process. The State was then ruled by four *Mahants* who succeeded as disciples and the other five who succeeded as descendants. They were Mahants Raghubar Das, Himanchal Das, Manjiram, Ghasi Das, Ghanaram, Balram Das, Rajendra Das, Sarweshwar Das and Digvijay Singh.

During the time of Mahant Manjiram his contemporary ruler of Dongargarh revolted against the Nagpur Raja, but was put down by the *mahant* of Rajnandgaon. The latter was amply rewarded for this military service by the grant of the Dongargaon *pargana*.

With the acquisition of the four *parganas*, viz., Pandadah, Nandgaon, Mohgaon and Dongargaon, a big estate was created which afterwards formed the tributary state of Rajnandgaon. Mahant Manjiram adopted, according to practice, Ghasi Das as his disciple but later on deviated from the established custom of celibacy. He married and begot a son named Ghanaram, who succeeded his father putting aside Ghasi Das. It was the first instance in the Rajnandgaon dynasty of a son succeeding his father. The son, however, ruled for three years only. After that Ghasi Das ascended the *gaddi*. In 1865 he was recognised as a Feudatory Chief by the British Government and granted a *sanad* giving him the right of adoption. Subsequently, an acknowledgement of fealty was executed.

Again the new Chief, though initially a *mahant* married and got a son, Balram Das, whom the British Government acknowledged as his rightful successor in 1879. In 1887, Balram Das received the title of Raja as a personal distinction and, in 1891, got the right of administration, on condition that he would abide by the advice of a Diwan, appointed by the Government in all administrative matters.

The British Government conferred on him, in 1893, the title of Raja Bahadur as a personal distinction. The merger of the State in Durg District took place in December 1947.

In 1941 the area and population of the State were about 2,000 sq. km. and 1,82,1,08 persons, respectively.

Sahaspur

(21°30' N, 81°15' E)

A medium sized village of Bemetara Tahsil, formerly Sahaspur was the

headquarters of a *zamindari* known as Sahaspur-Lohara, the two villages being separated by quite a large tank of about 3.25 kilometres length. These villages are 75.2 kilometres from Durg, 76.8 kilometres from Rajnandgaon and 19.2 kilometres from Kawardha. Sahaspur-Lohara *zamindari* comprised 88 villages having an area of about 360 sq. km. and a population of 14,927 in 1901. Originally the estate was a part of Kawardha State which was, subsequently portioned from the parent State and given to Baijnath Singh, son of Kawardha Chief Mahabali.

The village is said to have derived its name from its association with Sahasrarjuna, the founder of the Haihaya dynasty. One statue said to be that of Sahasrarjuna is standing under a tamarind tree near a tank at Sahaspur. An inscription engraved at its base gives the date 934 of the Kalachuri era or 1182 A. D. The first inscription refers to Raja Yasha Pala, who is praised by saying that he was equal to Brihaspati in eloquence and to Bali in liberality. "He was beautiful as Kama Deva and as skilful in war as Kartikeya, a destroyer of his enemies and a protector like Siva."[1] Lakshma Devi was his queen, while his sons were prince Bhoja Deva, and prince Raja Deva, Princess Jaslla Devi was his daughter. This king might have been a feudatory of Raja Ratan Deva of Ratanpur whose Kharod inscription is dated in the Chedi Samvat 933.

The village was inhabited 1,014 persons in 1961.

Sorar

(20°40' N; 81°20' E)

It is a village in Sanjari Balod Tahsil, lying at a distance of about 14.4 kilometres to the east of Balod. Ruins of temples and other buildings show that once the place was of some importance. The most interesting of these remains are stone pillars, standing in a row and surrounded by stone circles. They are considered to be tombs of olden times, the central pillar being the marking point of the burial place of the head of the family. This is the solitary example of such stone in Chattisgarh.

Remains of a temple known as the house of a Kalal Raja are situated on the Balod-Dhamtari road between Sorar and Dhobinpuri. This Raja according to a tradition, was originally a *kalal* or spirit-vendor. Gradually his richness and power increased and he bacame the ruler of the country. Being totally mean and cruel, he paid no attention to the welfare of his subjects. "A number of holes in regular rows in the hard laterite (which, at the village of Sorar, and for some distance on either side, crops up to the surface) are pointed out as the receiptacles formed for the tips of the *dhenkis* for cleaning and pounding rice; the *dhenkis* are said to have been worked by forcibly impressing every one who happened to be passing by, refusal to work being followed by the offender being himself placed under a large *dhenki* whose site is marked by

1. Archaeological Survey Report, Vol. XVII, p. 43.

a larger[1] hole". The *kalal* even after becoming king is said not to have abondoned his liquor trade and he continued to sell liquor seating on the top of the ruined temple known a his house.

The temple appears to have consisted of a *sanctum*, which has entirely disappeared leaving marks of its foundation and a *mandapa* or hall supported by four rows of pillars, four in each row. The only remains found standing in 1873-74 were two whole and four dwarf pillars and portions of roof supported by them.

About the same Raja the following legend is related. Long ago a woman of the Kalar caste lived at Sorar and a Rajput king from a distance reached there while hunting with his falcon which, flying away on and on, flew into the house of the Kalar woman. Seeing the king at her house, the woman requested him to take rest there for the night as he was far from his home. The king who stayed there fell in love with the woman and married her. They had a son called Chhachan-Chharu, Chhachan meaning a falcon.

Chhachan-Charu is stated to have been a great warrior, who conquered all his neighbouring kings. Whenever he conquered one, he took his wife or daughter for himself. Thus he had 160 wives, who were made to pound rice in stone mortars. These 160 mortars are still to be seen. One day he praised the beauty of his mother as supreme before her, where upon she smelt his bad intention and decided to kill him. She served him food which made him intensely thirsty. With a view to quenching his thirst he went down to a large stone well. His mother killed him then and there by throwing stones at him. She herself got stabbed with a dagger and was turned into a stone. A figure, in fact of a male warrior, is shown as the figure of that woman with dagger in hand. Chhachan-Chharu became the object of worship in the region surrounding Sorar.

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TABLE—I

Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. of years of data		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Highest annual rain-fall as % of normal & year**	Lowest annual rain-fall as % of normal & year**	Heaviest rain-* fall in 24 years: Amount (mm)	year	date
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Durg	50	a	16.0	26.7	18.8	19.3	20.8	199.6	339.9	344.4	212.6	61.5	13.5	3.0	1,276.9	155	56	262.9	1896,	Aug. 8
		b	1.1	2.2	1.5	1.8	2.0	9.3	15.0	14.3	10.3	3.3	0.9	0.3	62.0	(1919)	(1902)			
Sanjari	45	a	12.2	24.1	14.5	22.6	22.9	233.0	335.3	349.0	230.6	65.5	15.7	5.6	1,321.0	158	61	240.0	1939,	Aug. 19
		b	0.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	1.9	9.0	15.4	14.8	88.1	3.4	0.8	0.4	62.5	(1919)	(1920)			
Bemetara	45	a	14.2	30.0	17.0	17.5	15.2	192.3	351.5	319.8	186.9	55.6	14.5	4.3	1,218.8	133	65	216.9	1925,	Jul. 10
			1.3	2.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	9.7	16.1	15.0	9.9	3.2	1.0	0.4	63.8	(1919)	(1935)			
Gandai	45	a	17.0	29.7	15.7	19.6	17.3	178.1	295.7	280.9	185.4	62.0	15.0	4.6	1,121.0	143	61	160.3	1959,	Sep. 2
		b	1.4	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.8	9.5	16.7	14.0	10.4	3.2	1.2	0.4	63.8	(1919)	(1920)			
Ambagarh Chowki	46	a	11.9	28.7	15.0	18.0	17.3	213.4	424.7	389.9	236.5	59.9	13.7	5.3	1,434.3	147	54	310.6	1939,	Aug. 19
		b	0.9	2.0	1.3	1.5	1.5	9.4	17.7	16.5	11.4	3.1	0.9	0.5	66.7	(1944)	(1941)			
Khairagarh	49	a	14.7	28.5	20.3	16.3	16.0	187.7	323.3	387.0	186.9	71.1	15.5	5.1	1,172.4	139	50	237.5	1904,	Oct. 16
		b	1.2	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	9.4	15.5	14.7	10.0	3.6	1.0	0.4	63.8	(1942)	(1902)			
Rajnandgaon	49	a	14.7	30.0	16.0	20.8	19.6	218.2	354.6	360.4	209.5	70.4	12.2	5.6	1,332.0	154	52	292.9	1906,	Aug. 29
		b	1.1	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.8	9.7	16.7	15.2	11.1	2.5	0.9	0.4	66.1	(1911)	(1902)			
Kawardha	49	a	17.9	31.7	21.8	20.6	20.1	115.5	308.4	264.2	179.6	64.5	18.3	7.1	1,108.8	144	63	188.0	1957,	Aug. 22
		b	1.3	2.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	9.6	16.8	15.5	10.7	3.5	1.1	0.5	67.4	(1938)	(1920)			
Chhuikhadan	49	a	11.9	30.2	16.3	20.3	15.5	180.6	298.2	275.3	186.4	63.3	16.5	5.1	1,119.6	138	52	263.1	1961,	Sep. 14
		b	1.1	2.3	1.6	1.7	1.6	9.3	15.4	14.3	10.7	3.4	1.1	0.4	62.9	(1919)	(1920)			

(Contd......)

1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Dongargarh	49	a	11.9	31.5	16.3	17.8	11.7	202.4	381.8	332.2	212.6	70.9	12.5	4.1	1,305.7	161	54	359.4	1959,	Aug. 1
		b	0.9	9.1	1.6	0.4	1,2	9.2	17.7	15.4	11.5	3.4	0.9	0.3	65.5	(1919)	(1941)			
Khamaria	49	a	13.2	28.7	20.1	16.3	16.3	192.3	341.1	294.1	173.2	59.9	13.5	4.11	1,172.8	152	54	219.7	1907,	Aug. 2
		b	1.1	2.3	1.7	1.5	1,5	9.7	16.4	16.7	19.3	3.3	1.0	0.4	63.4	(1919)	(1902)			
Adamabad	24	a	10.7	25.4	12.9	19.8	20.8	224.3	393.5	386.8	232.4	73.4	9.4	3.8	1,413.2	143	65	228.6	1948,	Aug. 16
		b	0.6	2.3	1.1	1.5	1.8	9.6	17.1	14.7	11.0	3.3	0.8	0.2	64.0	(1948)	1928)			
Bhatagaon	24	a	9.1	20.8	11.7	13.5	12.7	213.1	382.0	337.3	225.8	53.6	9.7	3.1	1,292.4	134	67	228.6	1948,	Aug. 16
		b	0.7	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.4	10.3	16.7	13.7	10.6	3.2	0.6	0.2	61.3	(1943)	(1941)			
Selod	24	a	12.2	23.9	16.0	15.5	10.4	211.1	389.9	360.2	242.1	63.0	11.9	3.3	1,359.5	130	66	255.3	1939,	Aug. 19
		b	0.9	2 2	1.5	1.3	1.1	10.3	16.8	15.4	11.1	3.3	0.6	0.3	61.3	(1937)	(1932)			
Kharra	24	a	17.3	29.0	18.5	13.7	11.9	187.7	390.7	343.1	186.2	63.5	1.4	3.1	1,276.1	144	61	300.5	1942,	Sep. 12
		b	1.1	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	9,0	15.8	14.3	9.4	3.2	0.9	0.3	61.0	..	..			
Bhilai	24	a	14.2	20.3	16.8	18.8	16.3	212.9	362.7	354.2	205.2	69.6	16.8	3.1	1,320.9	127	67	288.3	1939,	Aug. 19
		b	1.1	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5	9.7	15.7	14.1	9.8	3.4	0.7	0.3	61.3	(1936)	(1941)			
Khapari	45	a	10.9	28.2	14.7	20.1	14.2	216.7	270.8	376.9	225.9	55.4	8.4	4.1	1,346.2	160	51	300.6	1939,	Aug. 19
		b	0.9	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.2	8.4	14.8	13.1	9.4	2.5	0.8	0.4	55.4	(1919)	(1920)			
Durg Distt.		a	13.5	27.5	16.6	18.3	16.4	200.5	355.5	333.3	206.9	63.7	13.4	4.4	1,270.0	144	53			
		b	1.0	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.6	9.5	16.2	14.7	10.5	3.3	0.9	0.4	63.4	(1919)	(1902)			

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).

* Based on all available data upto 1961

** Years given in brackets.

(....Concluded)

TABLE—II

Frequency of Annual Rainfall
(Data 1901-1950)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
601-700	1	1,301-1,400	5
701-800	1	1,401-1,500	6
801-900	1	1,501-1,600	5
901-1,000	1	1,601-1,700	0
1,001-1,100	7	1,701-1,800	0
1,101-1,200	11	1,801-1,900	1
1,201-1,300	11	—	—

TABLE—III

Yearly Rainfall and No. of Rainy Days (1951-60)

Year	Yearly Rainfall in mm.	No. of Rainy Days
1951	—	—
1952	912.4	49
1953	1,044.2	56
1954	1,001.8	46
1955	1,176.7	62
1956	1,404.7	65
1957	1,246.0	49
1958	1,495.8	63
1959	1,280.1	58
1960	1,203.7	47

Source: Director of Land Records, quoted in District Census Handbook, 1961, pp. 516-521.

TABLE—IV

Monthly Rainfall During 1961-68

(Average of All Stations in the District under the Director of Land Records)

(Millimetres)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1961	..	..	..	..	..	303.9	425.7	430.8	460.3	63.0	Nil	9.1
1962	0.8	2.6	13.1	N.R.	29.1	133.3	232.0	193.2	187.0	40.4	Nil	35 0
1963	Nil	14.0	Nil	30.8	38.0	95.4	247.5	319.2	293.9	70.3	Nil	Nil
1964	6.6	6.5	0.5	5.4	Nil	281.5	321.5	381.5	173.7	60.6	1.0	Nil
1965	9.9	Nil	17.1	0.5	13.8	139.8	270.9	147.5	238.4	1.0	Nil	Nil
1966	3.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	37.9	168.0	260.0	194.9	126.1	4.1	2.1	5.4
1967	0.1	Nil	80.8	3.3	Nil	251.6	394.5	429.9	130.6	5.9	Nil	46.8
1968	36.7	21.4	12.8	15.8	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

TABLE—V

No. of Deaths Caused by Reptiles in Police Station Charges (1955-66)

Police Station Charges	J.*	F.	M.	A.	M.	J.	J.	A.	S.	O.	N.	D.	Annual Total
Durg	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	9
Dhamdha	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bhilai	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Bhilai Bhatti	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	6
Bhilai Nagar—Chhawani	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Ahiwara	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Patan	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Arjunda	—	1	—	1	—	6	4	2	7	4	—	—	25
Balod	—	1	—	1	1	2	3	3	2	1	2	—	16
Gurur	1	—	1	1	3	6	4	1	4	3	—	2	26
Chowki	—	—	1	1	1	4	5	2	6	2	—	4	26
D. Lohra	1	—	1	—	3	2	3	4	6	1	2	2	25
Manpur	1	4	5	2	8	4	4	4	8	6	7	2	55
Jharundalli (Rajhara)	1	3	2	—	1	3	6	2	1	2	1	—	22
Pinkapar	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	6
Nawagarh	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	2	2	1	—	—	10
Nandghat	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	3	3	—	2	—	13
Berla	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	15
Khamaria	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Saja	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	7
Bemetara	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	5
Kawardha	—	—	—	—	2	7	3	6	7	3	—	—	28
Piparia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bodla	—	1	3	—	6	5	6	4	8	5	2	—	40
Rengakhar	—	—	2	1	3	3	—	3	2	—	—	—	14
S. Lohara	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	4	2	1	—	—	15
Rajnandgaon	1	—	1	2	2	1	4	3	1	—	—	—	15
Dongargaon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4
Ghumka	1	1	—	1	1	—	3	4	2	1	1	—	15
Chhuria	—	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	7
Khairagarh	1	1	1	3	2	3	5	6	4	—	1	—	27
Dongargarh	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	4
Chhuikhadan	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	3	—	1	—	—	9
Gandai	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	—	1	2	—	2	13
Ranchirai Nandini (64, 65) only	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
District Total	7	15	21	22	46	67	68	66	80	40	23	14	469

*J. stands for January and the subsequent letters stand for the following months of the year in sequence.

TABLE—VI

Thana-wise Total No. of Deaths Caused by Wild Animals (1955 to 1965)

Police Station Charge	J.	F.	M.	A.	M.	J.	J.	A.	S.	O.	N.	D.	Annual Total
Arjundah	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Balod	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Gurur	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Saja	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Bodla	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	10
S. Lohara	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	5
Rengakhar	1	—	—	3	1	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	10
Dongargaon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Chhuria	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	3
Khairagarh	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Chhuikhadan	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gandai	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Manpur	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chowki	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Kawardha	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
District Total	2	5	3	5	3	7	4	7	1	4	3	6	50

TABLE—VII

Mortality Caused by Reptiles and Wild Animals

Year	Killed by Snakes	Killed by Tiger	Killed by Panther	Killed by Bear
1966	48	3	6	—
1967	37	3	—	2
1968	55	2	—	—
1969	74	2	—	—
1970	59	1	—	1

TABLE—VIII

Irrigation Projects

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Year of Comple-tion	Cost (Estimated) Rs. (Lakhs)	Annual Irrigated Area (Designed) (Acres)
1	2	3	4	5
Major				
1.	Tandula Reservoir	1921	110.82	1,66,000
Medium				
2.	Khapri	1909	2.48	10,500
Minor				
3.	Darritola	—	0.73	2,327
4.	Hargahan	—	1.03	1,870
5.	Morid	—	0.10	435
6.	Sorli	—	0.08	308
7.	Maroda (B. & C.)	—	0.82	1,100
8.	Khudandi	—	—	1,200
9.	Nakta Tank	1952	0.29	128
10.	Badgaon	1952	0.29	105
11.	Jamgaon tank	1951	0.58	120
12.	Nardhi tank	1951	0.38	267
13.	Improvement of Sanjari tank	1952	0.55	1,010
14.	Pari anicut	1952	0.74	500
Medium				
15.	Gondli Feeder Reservoir	1957	75.57	7,614
Minor				
16.	Khursul tank	1956	0.86	493
17.	Kokpur tank	1956	1.94	440
18.	Sahaspur tank	1960	1.40	430
19.	Buhera tank	1957	0.22	125
20.	Surhi tank	—	31.98	15,790
21.	Nawagaon tank	—	50.61	3,907
22.	Madiyan tank	—	27.98	6,200
23.	Dhara tank	—	13.62	2,875

Contd....

1	2	3	4	5
Major				
24.	Kharkhara Reservoir Project	—	—	—
Minor				
25.	Tappa tank	1966	2.18	1,155
26.	Tirga tank	1965	1.30	257
27.	Bhardakalan tank	1964	0.70	100
28.	Thengabhat tank	1965	0.27	80
29.	Butekasa tank	1966	2.22	542
30.	Barhoom tank	1965	1.10	192
31.	Masul tank	1966	1.04	333
32.	Deodonagar tank	1965	1.49	253
33.	Basula tank	1965	1.28	413
34.	Diwanbhedi tank	1966	0.30	50
35.	Bargaon tank	1966	0.35	57
36.	Dakutola tank	1964	0.27	150
37.	Munjal tank	1964	0.28	87
38.	Deorbhat tank	1962	0.20	42
39.	Belgaon Beltara Weir	1962	0.32	240
40.	Phunda tank	1962	0.08	35
41.	Basin weir	1967	0 40	150
42.	Dangania weir	1967	0.30	150
43.	Bhoinabhata	1966	0.49	100
44.	Kurumi tank	1966	0.60	158
45.	Gunderdehi	1967	0.46	70
46.	Sangali	1966	0.50	100
47.	Rengadabri	1966	0.38	70
48.	Dhorithema	1967	0.49	100
49.	Khuramtola	1967	0.49	150
50.	Bamnicharbhata	1967	0.37	70
51.	Chilhati tank	1966	0.40	80
52.	Chorha Nala weir	1967	0.49	425
53.	Tumdibod weir	1966	0.50	240
54.	Nawagaon tank	1964	0,36	100
55.	Bhagwantola tank	1965	0.46	90
56.	Kareli tank	1966	0.60	150
57.	Gosulmuda	1965	1.39	150
58.	Andi Tank	—	2.51	500
59.	Dullitola tank	—	1.10	145
60.	Katalwabi tank	—	2.17	277
61.	Bhandar tank	—	2.02	325

....Contd

1	2	3	4	5
62.	Dulhar tank	—	1.10	300
63.	Nakta tank	—	1.10	200
64.	Muglani tank	—	0.80	262
65.	Achhali tank	—	0.46	126
66.	Saletekri tank	—	0.33	62
67.	Bhandarpur tank	—	0.29	78
68.	Mahrotola tank	—	0.25	166
69.	Salewara tank	—	0.97	170
70.	Argiokhodla weir	—	0.12	80
71.	Sahaspur tank	—	0.65	400
72.	Chrobhata tank	—	0.58	200
73.	Babai tank	—	0.64	140
74.	Batharoari tank	—	0.50	100
75.	Murhipar tank	—	0.90	140
76.	Extension of Balbhora-bhata canal	—	0.15	60
77.	Surajpur tank	—	0.40	80
78.	Bachherabhata tank	—	0.50	100
79.	Addi	—	0.46	126
Scarcity Schemes *				
80.	Improve & Ext. of Murhipara tank	—	90.000	140
81.	Ext. of Bachherabhata canal	—	15.000	80
82.	Improve & Ext. of Surajpura tank	—	—	—
83.	Rakshanalla weir	—	0.29	150
84.	Recons. of Armory Distry	—	0.50	4,000
85.	Dangania Nala Diversion channel	—	0.49	250
86.	Tumdihod Diversion channel	—	0.15	240
87.	Recons. of pairy Distry.	—	0.15	1,000
88.	Renovation of Jamgaon tank	—	0.36	120
89.	Repairs to Hitekasa channel	—	0.05	1,000
90.	Chedia tank	—	0.40	134
91.	Renovation of Berla tank	—	0.50	212
92.	Renovation of Rakhi tank	—	0.25	100
93	Renovation of Mohtara tank	—	0.50	120

* Started in later 1965-66 or early 1966-67.

....Contd

1	2	3	4	5
	Scarcity Works *			
94.	Chugsidhi Nalla weir	—	0.45	150
95.	Nankathi Nalla weir	—	0.45	250
96.	Renovation of Supkona Distry. of T.M.C.	—	0.50	1,500
97.	Remodelling of Patan Minor	—	0.40	1,000
98.	Bhedikalan weir	—	0.50	150
99.	Chando tank	—	0.49	80
100.	Parsadi tank	—	0.45	100
101.	Andhi-ka-tola	—	0.50	200
102.	Dargaon tank	—	0.30	100
103.	Nundeli Nandwai tank	—	0.49	100
104.	Parasbod Nalla weir No. 11	—	0.45	150
105.	Nandai Nalla weir	—	0.50	150
106.	Tolung tank	—	0.50	150
107.	Jcthia Nalla weir	—	0.50	150

* Started after October, 1966.

....Concluded

TABLE—IX

Classification of Area

(In Acres)

Year	Total Geographical Area According to Village Papers (Reporting Area)	Forest	Not Available for Cultivation		Other Un-Cultivated Land Excluding Fallow Land			Fallow Lands		Under Crops		
			Land Put to Non-Agricultural uses	Barren & Un-Culturable Land	Permanent Pastures and other Grazing Land	Land under Misc. Crops and Groves not included in Net Area Sown	Culturable Waste	Fallow Lands other than Current Fallows	Current Fallows	Net Area Sown	Total Cropped Area	Area Sown More than Once
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1950-51	47,97,279	9,56,959		2,96,332		5,84,854	3,38,326	2,80,802		23,40,006	27,24,880	3,84,874
First Plan												
1951-52	47,97,279	12,43,232		2,96,553		2,96,611	3,21,446	2,34,149		24,05,288	30,92,190	6,86,902
1952-53	47,97,279	12,42,520		2,96,961		2,93,814	3,02,960	2,11,522		24,49,502	30,68,237	6,18,735
1953-54	47,97,279	12,59,141	2,10,848	75,274	3,10,729	37,588	1,18,748	1,59,754	1,29,655	24,95,542	31,43,735	6,48,193
1954-55	47,97,279	12,57,343	2,24,517	63,590	3,16,932	26,486	1,13,217	1,47,305	1,29,315	25,18,574	31,47,623	6,29,049
1955-56	47,97,279	12,57,158	2,33,239	63,608	3,19,982	21,717	1,06,009	1,35,234	1,26,011	25,34,411	32,92,486	7,58,075
Second Plan												
1956-57	48,00,187	12,45,778	2,51,350	58,021	3,32,335	21,983	1,02,775	1,32,112	1,38,679	25,17,154	33,03,571	7,86,417
1957-58	48,00,187	12,42,193	2,55,533	60,723	3,33,039	20,864	1,02,890	1,47,917	1,64,197	24,72,831	30,74,920	6,02,089

Contd....

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1958-59	48,00,187	12,38,274	2,50,575	69,552	3,35,373	21,570	1,05,038	1,50,365	1,35,435	24,94,005	32,75,100	7,81,095
1959-60	48,00,187	12,40,139	2,64,103	58,002	3,30,784	26,785	98,169	1,48,658	1,27,281	25,06,268	33,01,624	7,95,356
1960-61	48,00,187	12,44,507	2,04,178	57,468	3,42,723	14,753	95,604	1,47,400	1,30,388	25,03,166	33,06,761	8,03,595
Third Plan												
1961-62	48,02,498	12,43,547	2,71,564	57,889	3,40,808	14,437	97,189	1,51,512	1,81,887	24,43,665	32,92,271	8,48,606
1962-63	47,97,776	12,39,237	2,76,262	60,133	3,54,668	13,689	94,832	1,58,529	1,37,925	24,62,501	31,49,932	6,87,431
1963-64	48,09,392	12,41,171	2,76,262	79,278	3,28,302	5,666	1,07,514	1,51,265	1,19,406	25,00,528	32,93,373	7,92,845
1964-65	48,09,392	12,37,873	2,62,706	80,400	3,80,552	1,014	88,902	1,32,489	1,22,941	25,02,515	33,67,953	8,65,438

....Concluded

TABLE—X

Area Under Principal Crops

(In '000 Acres)

Year	Paddy	Wheat	Gram	Tur	Linseed
1910-11	655.6	222.4	42.2	65.2	115.7
1920-21	698.1	114.4	23.8	0.3	27.6
1930-31	732.4	161.8	40.2	53.3	102.4
1940-41	804.5	95.3	41.9	49.4	167.8
1949-50	1,196.6	101.2	122.5	92.4	232.8
1950-51	1,204.3	103.6	102.4	85.3	177.3
First Plan					
1951-52	1,206.4	107.0	109.7	94.7	232.1
1952-53	1,224.5	111.9	104.5	98.6	226.0
1953-54	1,232.2	112.7	113.8	103.2	240.2
1954-55	1,234.3	115.1	122.0	101.5	242.7
1955-56	1,242.2	123.8	122.7	103.7	270.8
Second Plan					
1956-57	1,232-0	143.6	127.3	86.7	318.4
1957-58	1,244 5	118.0	133.9	118.0	231.8
1958-59	1,246.4	111.9	144.1	89.8	299.6
1959-60	1,256.0	126.1	121.3	91.3	332.9
1960-61	1,260.9	128.8	131.7	88.3	352.1
Third Plan					
1961-62	1,280.3	137.0	125.1	74.9	319.8
1962-63	1,289.4	136.2	106.9	85.1	290.7
1963-64	1,305.0	148.0	114.9	87.8	320.5
1964-65	1,325.9	141.3	110.9	84.2	329.4

TABLE—XI

Production of Principal Crops

(In '000 Tons)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Tur	Linseed
1910-11	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1920-21	92.0	13.8	N.A.	N.A.	0.6
1930-31	196.7	35.3	N.A.	N.A.	8.0
1940-41	152.7	14.4	6.3	5.3	12.4
1949-50	236.2	17.8	22.2	14.9	17.2
1950-51	120.5	16.5	15.5	9.7	10.7
First Plan					
1951-52	353.6	18.9	18.1	60.1	12.5
1952-53	299.8	20.4	20.2	40.2	13.6
1953-54	361.4	21.8	24.7	62.7	17.7
1954-55	293.9	35.3	25.9	44.9	17.9
1955-56	405.2	24.9	27.9	57.5	21.8
Second Plan					
1956-57	487.5	29.2	23.4	38.5	21.4
1957-58	301.9	10.4	21.0	41.6	9.5
1958-59	4[illegible]7.2	20.4	7.3	23.7	19.9
1959-60	477.8	23.4	26.6	36.9	26.7
1960-61	471.7	25.3	20.2	46.0	22.9
Third Plan					
1961-62	458.3	32.1	21.3	24.1	33.3
1962-63	316.1	30.0	24.9	26.8	25.7
1963-64	416.2	25.1	14.7	28.3	14.3
1964-65	444.2	34.0	24.1	30.5	22.1

TABLE—XII

Number of Agricultural Implements & Machinery
(Based on Livestock Census)

Census Year	Ploughs		Carts	Sugarcane Crushers		Oil Engines with Pumps for Irrigation Purposes	Electric Pumps for Irrigation Purposes	Oil Engines for other Purposes	Persian Wheels	Motors	Tractors		Ghanis with Crushing Capacity	
	Wooden	Iron		Power	Bullocks						Govt.	Private	Less than 5 Seers	5 Seers or More
1951	2,15,329	146	1,33,546	5	156	35	9	—	—	—	—	4	2,606	215
1955	2,44,495	132	1,54,213	5	204	21	5	24	65	34	—	11	2,789	152
Variation	+14	—10	+15	0	+31	—40	—44	—	—	—	—	—	+7	—29
1961														
Tahsilwise:														
Durg	57,809	828	46,272	1	21	29	11	22	22	4	1	14	382	47
Bemetara	6,587	14	26,366	1	24	9	—	17	11	11	—	11	356	22
Balod	66,884	1	35,401	—	16	9	—	14	9	37	—	5	372	35
Rajnandgaon	41,546	5	24,712	—	6	6	13	8	11	1	—	9	134	6
Khairagarh	29,336	5	24,349	—	4	9	11	8	13	21	—	5	239	9
Kawardha	25,156	13	10,038	—	142	4	—	4	1	—	—	3	225	3
District Total	2,82,318	866	1,69,138	2	213	66	35	73	67	74	1	47	1,708	122
Variation	+15	+556	+10	—	—	+214	+600	—	—	—	—	+327	—	—

TABLE—XIII

Number of Livestock & Poultry
(Based on Livestock Census)

Census Year	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Horses & Ponies	Mules	Donkeys	Camels	Pigs	Total Live-stock	Poultry			
											Fowls	Ducks	Others	Total
1951	12,77,557	2,24,925	47,307	93,794	5,981	—	53	3	4,306	16,53,926	1,98,319	413	—	1,98,732
1956	11,92,147	2,15,317	42,530	1,56,752	5,131	4	230	1	8,091	16,20,203	2,35,837	823	3,058	2,39,718
Variation	—7	—4	—10	+67	—14	—	+334	—67	+88	—2	+19	+99	—	+21
1961														
Tahsilwise:														
Durg	3,11,143	60,204	14,255	31,810	384	8	3	—	781	4,18,588	38,237	304	531	39,072
Bemetara	2,54,307	58,793	11,224	39,133	1,294	—	20	—	485	3,65,256	19,982	193	480	20,655
Balod	2,92,793	54,550	8,222	54,650	182	15	45	—	5,552	4,06,009	1,46,297	83	2,102	1,48,482
Rajnandgaon	1,91,352	31,522	8,015	22,978	170	—	37	—	351	2,54,425	28,426	118	793	29,337
Khairagarh	1,92,930	30,073	4,453	23,893	239	—	13	—	592	2,52,193	34,642	96	319	35,057
Kawardha	1,45,293	29,340	5,030	17,194	1,117	—	8	—	568	1,98,550	25,086	10	244	25,340
District Total	13,77,818	2,64,482	51,199	1,89,658	3,386	23	126	—	8,329	18,95,021	2,92,670	804	4,469	2,97,943
Variation	+16	+23	+20	+21	—34	+475	—45	—	+3	+17	—24	—2	+46	+24

TABLE—XIV

Veterinary Institutions

Place	Year of Establishment
1	2
Veterinary Hospitals	
Durg	1906
Bemetara	1910
Balod	1910
Mohalla	1926
Khairagarh	1930
Kawardha	1930
Nawagarh	1938
Chowki	1958
Rajnandgaon	1961
Veterinary Dispensaries	
Gandai	1926
Berla	1952
Patan	1953
Dongargaon	1955
Gurur	1956
Dongargarh	1957
Chhuikhadan	1958
Sahaspur Lohara	1958
Saja	1958
Dhamdha	1960
Gunderdehi	1961
Chhuria	1966
Outlying Veterinary Dispensaries	
Ghumka	1948
Kukurmuda	1952
Bodla	1952
Arjunda	1953
Pondi	1953
Kurra	1953
Khamarya	1953

Contd....

1	2
Hasda	1953
Mudmuda	1955
Dori	1955
Ranitarai	1956
Kokpur	1956
Thakurtola	1957
Kohka	1958
Kawar	1958
Manpur	1958
Parsada	1959
Job	1959
Dahdi	1959
Nikum	1960
Giddari	1960
Jalbandha	1960
Deokar	1960
Maniyari	1960
Nipani	1960
Dondi Lohara	1960
Matargaon	1960
Aundhi	1961
Godhi	1961
Bori	1961
Mohara	1961
Salewara	1961
Surajpura	1961
Halsumund	1961
Sarda	1961
Kusumkasa	1961
Khursipar	1962
Gandatola	1962
Risama	1963
Ghotia	1965
Dondi	1965
Rawali	1966
Jheroni	1966
Dhangaon	1966
Artificial Insemination Centres	
Rajnandgaon	1956

Contd....

1	2
Key Village Centres	
Rajnandgaon	1949
Chhuria	1950
Chhuikhadan	1953
Risama	1958
Key Village Units	
Somni	1956
Parri	1956
Singhola	1963
Jangalpur	1963
Pendri	1963
Tilai	1963
Artificial Insemination Units	
Khairagarh	1959
Dhamdha	1961
Durg	1962
Dongargaon	1962
Dongargarh	1963
Poultry Farm	
Durg	1956
Dairy Farm	
Durg	1956
Check Station	
Bodla	1948
Bortalao	1960
Quarantine Check Station	
Chirchari	1965-66

Contd....

1	2
Goushalas	
Shri Krishna Goushala, Dongargarh	1908
Yadunath Goushala, Kawardha	1935
Shri Pinjrapole Goushala, Rajnandgaon	1958
Slaughter Houses	
Durg	1949
Rajnandgaon	1950
Dongargarh	1955

....Concluded

TABLE—XV

Incidence of Livestock Diseases

Year	Rinderpest			Haemorrhagic Septicaemia			Black Quarter			Anthrax		
	Out-breaks	Deaths	Inocu-lations	Out-breaks	Deaths	Inocu-lations	Out-breaks	Deaths	Inocu-lations	Out-breaks	Deaths	Inocu-lations
1950-51	128	1,069	209,091	86	341	15,210	17	86	757	1	6	177
1951-52	13	101	139,577	74	358	17,348	25	94	2.395	10	67	1.866
1952-53	24	162	207,951	38	196	10,390	—	—	112	5	28	1,130
1953-54	175	1,698	255,370	32	149	10.819	1	3	369	13	138	2,443
1954-55	55	560	296,339	32	244	27,556	3	16	3,067	33	260	7,347
1955-56	4	444	304,166	44	277	28,443	1	2	140	33	309	5,473
1956-57	77	854	390,624	23	115	27,744	—	—	138	8	75	4,108
1957-58	25	264	486.637	12	45	62,181	1	8	3,248	3	16	5,589
1958-59	17	185	511,928	16	123	55,870	2	9	2,407	11	130	8,012
1959-60	9	98	516,644	7	65	32,532	—	—	4,191	3	33	13,033
1960-61	13	128	536,568	13	84	93,503	1	5	2,633	7	190	13,525
1961-62	31	772	443,443	17	260	84,624	—	—	2,010	10	26	8,009
1962-63	27	504	30,642	20	265	15,211	—	—	1,775	—	—	8,664
1963-64	24	441	46,960	28	169	51,837	—	—	115	—	—	10,532
1964-65	24	364	26,451	2	16	31,285	—	—	746	—	—	10,157
1965-66	8	105	10,557	10	29	25,059	—	—	2,459	2	2	4,864

TABLE—XVI

Labour and Staff Position of Bhilai Steel Plant

Year	Operation (Factory)	Construction
1959	2,857	38,647
1960	11,543	34,843
1961	13,615	9,184
1962	12,406	5,038
1963	14,233	4,124
1964	15,639	11,739
1965	17,904	18,028
1966	21,744	12,593
1967	22,782	10,976
1968	23,404	8,776
1969	22,480	7,546
1970	23,653	6,818

TABLE—XVII

Production of Bhilai Steel Plant

(In '000 Tonnes)

Period	25 mm coke dry	Sinter	Hot Metal	INGOT STEEL		Ingots rolled	Billets		Rails & Heavy Structurals Finished		Merchant products finished	Wire Rods
				Total	Rollable		Billet Mill	Rail Mill	Rails	Heavy Structurals and Bars		
1958-59	48	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1959-60	462	—	448	92	92	75	56	—	—	—	—	—
1960-61	679	—	736	402	402	402	331	—	2	14	8	—
1961-62	958	179	1014	789	785	762	364	—	128	73	153	—
1962-63	1,088	694	1,282	1,060	1,033	1,010	473	3	248	82	225	—
1963-64	1,105	931	1,296	1,143	1,133	1,121	523	9	253	122	282	—
1964-65	1,203	924	1,157	1,131	1,118	1,138	564	6	228	126	299	—
1965-66	1,562	843	1,632	1,371	1,352	1,322	591	—	269	157	308	—
1966-67	1,826	1,248	2,052	1,852	1,831	1,753	854	173	219	113	394	—
1967-68	1,952	1,225	2,080	1,785	1,767	1,727	817	116	211	147	270	62
1968-69	1,934	1,269	1,935	1,735	1,718	1,748	839	24	247	208	329	119
1969-70	2,094	1,161	2,140	1,876	1,859	1,842	1,006	56	267	209	420	237
Total	14,911	8,474	15,809	13,236	13,090	12,900	6,518	387	2,072	1,251	2,688	418

TABLE—XVIII

Exports of the Products of the Bhilai Steel Plant

Period	Products	Quantity (Tonnes)	Approximate Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1959-60	Pig Iron	28,927	55.26
1960-61	Pig Iron	72,342	165.81
	Billets	17,075	75.44
1961-62	Pig Iron	40,425	99.23
	Billets	6,552	28.56
	Finished Steel Angles	377	2.02
	Hot Pressed Naphthalene	78	0.48
1962-63	Pig Iron	16,530	40.60
	Hot Pressed Napthalene	1,140	2.53
	Benzene	5,679	11.01
1963-64	Finished Steel	13,779	73.42
	By Products	6,146	13.33
1964-65	Finished Steel	7,404	31.83
	Hot Pressed Naphthalene	455	1.05
	Benzene	2,654	6.65
	Anthracene	64	0.06
1965-66	Finished Steel	23,824	110.77
	Naphthalene	875	2.36
	Benzene	166	0.39
1967-68	Billets	28,477	—
	Rails	29,217	—
1968-69	Billets	51,147	—
	Rails	56,673	—
1969-70	Billets	26,937	—
	Rails	89,993	—

TABLE—XIX

Working of the Cooperative Central Bank Dur

(In Rs.)

Year	No. of societies affiliated	No. of members	Share capital	Working capital	Loan taken from Apex Bank	Deposits	Investment: Loans given	Investment: Others	Loans outstanding against Societies
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1949			49,988	7,01,102		5,03,128			
1950	402	1272	52,163	7,57,265	99,081	4,77,036	10,79,930	1,42,507	3,51,419
First Plan									
1951	415	1285	53,897	9,70,739	1,26,832	6,41.662	10,29,115	1,26,738	4,88,866
1952	442	1336	56,209	10,34,698	2,08,175	6,16,851	16,91,228	1,84,886	5,74,727
1953	456	1339	80,260	12,15,523	4,00,000	5,22,048	9,90,344	11,045	9,90,344
1954	503	1393	1,79,890	19,85,253	5,50,000	6.84,618	13,65,034	6,44,268	12,03,362
1955	586	1498	2,15,660	19,56,329	8,00,000	7,38.221	17.27,445	7,04,619	15,62,882
Second Plan									
1956	801	1617	2,91,755	35,24,929	16,00,000	13,72,890	30,71,488	16,86,370	26,32,735
1957	804	1719	3,45,995	40,92,998	17,50,000	16,80,495	33,31,940	16,30,335	30,06.721

Contd....

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1958	786	1717	6,79,010	52,55,293	22,50,000	19,40.733	4,51,997	6,42,566	39,82,999
1959	777	1701	8,59,465	71,30,343	37,30,000	20,99,654	72,03,526	65,357	57,26,985
1960	814	1728	8,93,355	70,36,449	36,00,000	20,61,583	64,48,574	11,492	53,36 949
Third Plan									
1961	848	1757	8,93,416	76,76,543	33,00,000	29,57,464	66,57,742	5,000	57,61,556
1962	910	1817	9,85,417	94,03,996	40,00,000	38,35.546	92,83,367	43,108	75,31,163
1963	929	1837	11,24,388	1,35,18,925	69,63,175	48,74,969	1,22,78,772	10,514	1,06,64,426
1964	949	—	15,67,720	1,56,61,305	80,04,152	53,97,525	1,44,94,955	—	1,25,03,414
1965	966	—	23,03,006	2,10,22,642	1,12,97,862	66.87,072	1,55,37,898	—	1,33,28,378

.....Concluded

TABLE—XX

Financial Assistance-Loans Granted From State Under Different Acts or Schemes

(Amount in Rs.)

Year	Total	Under Agriculturists Loans Act Under S.M.F. Scheme			Total	Under Land Improvement Act Under S.M.F. Scheme		Others
		Seeds	Manures	Others		Wells	Tanks	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1947-48	1,88,428	96,456	91,972	--	2,86,260	51,210	1,04,650	1,30,400
1948-49	3,87,824	94,679	2,91,145	2,000	5,70,543	51,400	1,60,950	3,58,193
1949-50	98,800	34,965	60,835	3,000	3,93,891	27,300	61,300	3,05,291
1950-51	4,66,088	1,54,325	2,81,924	29,839	8,63,787	5,900	2,68,320	5,89,567
1951-52	3,62,305	1,02,720	2,46,990	12,595	3,10,978	14,400	61,118	2,35,460
1952-53	4,30,152	1,53,094	2,37,616	39,442	1,53,126	21,496	2,000	1,29,630
1953-54	5,64,693	1,22,515	4,19,598	22,580	2,18,603	15,784	35,920	1,66,899
1954-55	9,52,981	1,27,321	8,13,920	11,740	1,58,027	33,560	50,437	74,030
1955-56	9,85,642	1,19,046	8,48,646	17,050	2,83,243	64,056	59,775	1,59,412
1956-57	15,31,819	13,31,761	13,62,251	36,392	2,81,657	84,660	57,681	1,39,316
1957-58	24,52,475	2,19,280	21,42,305	90,890	4,27,372	1,48,680	1,19,625	1,59,067
1958-59	29,04,295	2,97,908	25,18,517	87,870	1,79,697	61,760	60,937	57,000
1959-60	16,77,630	2,76,282	13,61,438	39,910	1,00,560	50,400	21,375	28,785
1960-61	14,00,892	1,99,203	11,53,775	48,014	1,13,110	45,300	18,337	49,473
1961-62	11,52,882	1,36,195	8,75,724	40,963	1,56,935	1,37,825	—	19,310
1962-63	1,81,830	1,64,780	9,962	7,088	11,250	11,250	—	—
1963-64	3,08,258	2,82,885	15,870	9,503	77,086	—	—	77,068

TABLE—XXI

State Assistance to Industries Co-operative as on 30th June

(Amount in Rupees)

Class of Society	No. of societies			Share capital			Loans			Others		
Years	63	64	65	63	64	65	63	64	65	63	64	65
1. Weavers Co-operative Societies	10	12	16	—	—	—	67,556	16,196	1,196	2,133	—	3,057
2. Wool Co-operatives	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Soap making societies	5	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Oil-Co-operatives	21	19	18	—	—	—	—	35,298	54,879	—	—	5,159
5. Paddy-husking societies	25	33	34	—	—	—	—	94,260	1,32,895	—	—	905
6. Metal works	2	2	2	—	—	—	37,500	30,000	96,100	—	—	—
7. Cane and Bamboo Societies	5	6	6	—	—	—	—	3,920	6,170	—	—	—
8. Tailoring Societies	3	3	3	—	—	—	1,000	—	2,350	—	—	—
9. Wood works	4	4	4	—	—	—	2,700	2,160	8,958	—	—	—
10. Ashoka Rice Mill	1	1	1	—	—	1,50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Leather goods	6	8	8	—	—	—	2,000	—	8,790	—	—	—
12. Bricks and tiles	13	15	15	—	—	—	13,628	1,790	44,043	—	—	—
13. Bidi makers society	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1,675	—	—	—

TABLE—XXII

Number, Membership & Share Capital of Different Types of Co-operative Societies, (1968-69)

S. No.	Type of society	Number	Membership	Share capital (Rs.)
1.	Central Bank	1	1,170	48,46,852
2.	Land Mortgage Bank	1	4,127	1,12,646
3.	Agricultural Credit Socs.	722	1,38,891	50,71,062
4.	Non-Agricultural Credit Socs.	36	6,784	1,58,418
5.	Coop. Farming Socs.	41	4,027	4.71,925
6.	Primary Marketing Socs.	2	6,081	7,66,727
7.	Processing Socs.	32	664	2,94,619
8.	Wholesale Consumers Coop Stores	2	646	3,93,150
9.	Primary " "	100	22,933	3,63,692
10.	Housing Socs.	10	3,381	2,22,110
11.	Weavers Socs.	16	8,559	1,88,892
12.	Other Industrial Socs.	60	1,116	99,357
13.	Others	96	10,895	3,33,808
	Total	1125	2,09,274	1,33,23,258

Source: Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Durg.

TABLE—XXIII

Balance Sheet of Co-operative Marketing Societies as on 30-6-1969

Amount in Rs.

S. No.	Name of Co-operative Marketing Society	Paid-up Capital	Reserve and other Funds	Deposits	Borrowings	Loans Out-standing	All Other liabilities	Total liabilities	Total Assets
1.	Rajnadgaon	27,230	376	465	8,488	8,039	6,410	42,499	24,250
2.	Khairagarh	78,495	4,285	—	1,10,531	1,16,321	97,761	9,91,061	2,51,663
3.	Kawardha	66,225	4,365	6,782	50,554	—	1,01,438	2,29,364	2,15,712
4.	Dongargarh	59,485	1,244	138	10,172	3,296	61,481	1,32,630	1,23,503
5.	Durg	3,20,497	1,21,624	50,742	8,32,160	24,862	6,36,420	19,61,443	19,24,484
6.	Balod	65,680	20,786	320	78,841	2,000	2,61,749	4,27,376	3,92,981
7.	Bemetara	1,49,105	15,387	253	55,703	1,000	49,411	2,69,859	2,71,653
	Total	7,66,727	1,67,996	58,700	11,46,449		12,14,760	33,54,632	32,04,246

TABLE—XXIV

Imports of Important Commodities from Important Railway Stations (1964-65)

Name of the Railway Station	Commodities	Quantity (Quintals)
Durg	a. Grain & Pulses	57,799
	b. Sugar & Jaggery	44,636
	c. Coal, lime & lime-stone	43,226
	d. Salt	35,914
	e. Iron & Steel	33,631
	f. Cement	31,382
	g. Other goods	2,34,541
Bhilai	a. Cement	34,366
	b. Salt	2,468
	c. Other goods	1,07,313
Bhilai Freight Office	a. Limestone	1,30,86.504
	b. Coal	1,94,79,366
	c. Manganese ore	18,46,885
	d. Dolomite	10,52,928
	e. Iron ore	1,80,37,414
	f. Other goods	33,48,883
Dalli-Rajhara	Other goods	53,582
Balod	a. Cement	23,249
	b. Iron & Steel	13,312
	c. Salt	5,592
	d. Sugar & Jaggery	2,163
	e. Other goods	24,458
Rajnandgaon	Sugar	24.482
	Ground-nut oil	31,499
	Kerosene Oil	26,062
	F. P. Cotton	1,400
	Salt	56,331
	Jaggery	27,527
	Coconuts	8,338
Dongargarh	Sugar	4,500 (Appx.)
	Cement	11,690
	Salt	10,000

TABLE—XXV

Exports of Important Commodities from Important Railway Stations (Year 1964-65)

Name of Railway Station	dities	Quantity (Quintals)
Durg	Timber	23,606
	Grain & Pulses	2,66,439
	Oilcake	42,836
	Other goods	50,442
Bhilai	Iron and Steel	11,573
	Timber	6,430
	Grain & Pulses	8,531
	Other goods	74,665
Bhilai Freight Office	Coke	4,21,167
	Pig-iron	35,41,640
	Iron & Steel	93,50,070
	Other goods	6,99,108
Dalli-Rajhara	Iron ore	2,40,53,418
	Timber	1,19,718
	Bamboos	27,085
	Other goods	25,186
Balod	Timber	2,552
	Grain & Pulses	7,192
	Other goods	4,34,192
Rajnandgaon	Rice	4,10,839
	Gram Pulses	65,492
	Bidi leaves	70,605
	Goods	8,133
	Timber	1,21,873
	Murrah Poha	1,00.957
Dongargarh	Bamboos	82,500
	Timber	31,950
	Pulses	28,250
	Charcoal	12,130

TABLE—XXVI

Working of the Government-handled Ware-houses

(In Rupees)

Year (as on 31st March)	Deposits (Rs.)	Withdrawals (Rs.)
	RAJNANDGAON	
1960	95,655	90,549
1961	1,63,546	1,10,347
1962	2,16,008	55,208
1963	30,892	6,041
1964	26,335	21,788
1965	1,853	372
1966	18,349	13,846
1967	23,027	6,388
	NANDAI	
1964	25,112	13,405
1965	16,712	4,779
1966	17,809	9,022
1967	2,515	2,336
	DONGARGARH	
1961	17,218	6,042
1962	12,042	4,247
1963	5,945	1,143
1964	3,364	796
1965	3,416	2,235
1966	9,401	11,679
1967	2,373	223
	DURG	
1960	19,899	10,500
1961	1,12,923	61,362
1962	1,09,195	34,160
1963	15,726	4,861
1964	27,477	16,953
1965	7,488	10,640
1966	45,579	29,216
1967	1,04,853	93,905

TABLE—XXVII

Revised Takoli and Total Payment—Zamindariwise

Estate	Last Settlement						As revised (1921-26)					
	Takoli	Percentage on *kamil-juma*	Percentage on net income	Total Payment	Percentage on *kamil-jama*	Percentage on net income	Takoli	Percentage on *kamil-jama*	Percentage on net income	Total Payment	Percentage on *kamil-jama*	Percentage on net income
Parpodi	3,500	46	37	4.415	58	46	5,500	59	39	6,023	64	42
Gandai	6,655	54	38	8,118	65	46	10,000	57	37	11,044	63	40
Thakartola	1,900	48	33	2,439	62	42	2,700	50	28	3,035	57	32
Barbaspur	2,080	48	38	2,583	59	48	3,100	58	35	3,306	63	38
Silheti	1,790	49	36	2,268	62	45	2,500	57	36	2,773	63	40
Sahaspur-Lohara	8,000	49	38	9,986	62	47	11,500	58	34	14,938	64	37
Total northwestern tract	23,925	50	37	29,811	62	46	37,300	57	35	41,209	63	39
Gunderdehi	6,700	38	34	8,882	51	45	12,500	58	37	13,895	64	41
Khujji	2,750	46	38	3,520	59	49	4,250	59	34	4,628	66	38
Dondi-Lohara	6,800	40	36	8,671	51	46	13,500	50	27	15,184	56	30
Ambagarh-Chouki	2,000	13	9	2,636	18	13	6,500	26	16	8,055	33	20
Panabaras	1,500	14	9	1,998	19	13	4,500	24	14	5 666	30	18
Koracha	145	10	7	220	15	10	550	22	13	708	28	17
Aundhi	50	11	11	67	15	14	450	26	14	559	33	17
Total south western tract	19,945	29	23	25,994	38	30	42,250	41	24	48,695	47	28

TABLE—XXVIII

Receipts from Different Sources of Revenue

(Rs. in '000)

S. No.	1907-08	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
CENTRAL							
1. Income Tax	3.8	394.7	1,539.6	4,893.5		4,702.7	8,449.1
2. Union Excise		963.8	22,094.5	1,36,258.1	1,78,529.5	1,45,876.5	1,86,789.4
3. Estate Duty		—	41,1	4.8	35.7	6.3	44.9
STATE							
4. Excise	102.2	736.6	1,185.3	2,685.1	3,867.3	4,641.3	6,485.7
5. Stamps	36.7	456.2	891.0	1,624.9	2,236.5	2,370.0	2,768.4
6. Registration	3.5	119.9	194.6	398.9	544.2	520.5	593.0
7. Taxes on Motor Vehicles		123.4	1,024.5	1,611.3	1,589.1	1,533.1	1.827.0
8. Sales Tax		1,065.3	6,486.7	21,846.9	30,080.6	30,714.7	35,679.0
9. Forest		938.4	3,100.1	9,355.8	11,946.1	16,079.7	17,592.0

TABLE—XXIX

Consolidation of Holdings

Year	No. of Villages for which Schemes were Prepared and Confirmed	Area Consolidated (in Acres)	*Khasra* Numbers before *Chakbandi*	*Khasra* Numbers excluded for *Chakbandi*, i. e. *Baris*, *Kothars*, etc.	Net *Khasra* Numbers after *Chakbandi*, etc.	Reduction of Column (6) on Column (4) (in Percentage)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Since beginning to 1950-51	1,284	11,40,853	22,17,415	1,49,995	3,76,402	83
1951-52	35	34,628	75,012	3,495	15,513	78
1952-53	27	22,461	91,771	4,901	9,891	79
1953-54	24	22,952	52,707	5,111	10,418	78
1954-55	30	23,061	44,513	3.033	11,116	73
1955-56	35	30,324	50,799	5,399	11,635	74
1956-57	34	29,792	50,961	4,836	16,269	68
1957-58	67	47,091	92,542	10,160	33,875	63
1958-59	83	63,824	1,02.995	13,957	34,367	67
1959-60	82	64,407	91,543	12,411	35,643	62
1960-61	58	45,685	69.215	9.917	27,785	60
1961-62	101	74,191	101,356	16,473	44,125	57
1962-63	76	63,879	83,346	8,115	39,431	53
1963-64	76	49,661	62,053	6,275	28,733	54
1964-65	109	78,370	91,230	11,756	44,659	51
1965-66	82	50,150	51,017	6,319	27,583	46

TABLE—XXX

Judicial : Nature & Number of Cases Disposed of

Year	Total Number of offences reported under I.P.C. Special and Local Laws and Cr. P. C.	Number of cases		Persons convicted under various offences			Number of Persons punished		
		Disposed	Pending	Affecting Human body	Against Property	Affecting Public Health	Imprisonment	Fines	Security taken
1960	13,780	13,290	5,626	356	1,222	205	935	13,763	335
1961	19,043	16,038	8,596	208	1,080	246	1,054	17,305	129
1962	18,969	20,385	7,179	325	1,304	102	1,266	14,427	446
1963	24,657	25,024	4,959	463	1,882	366	1,910	23,583	544
1964	23,641	20,235	9,265	533	3,030	326	1,202	20,922	312
1965	17.229	20,292	5,202	322	1,594	312	1,409	13,971	661

TABLE—XXXI

Powers of Civil Courts (Act of 1865)

Courts	Class	Judicial powers (Civil to Try suits)
1	2	3
1. Tahsildar	II Class	Not exceeding Rs. 100 in value
— do —	I Class	Not exceeding Rs. 300
2. Assistant Commissioner	III Class	Not exceeding Rs. 500
	II Class	Not exceeding Rs. 1,000
	I Class	Not exceeding Rs. 5,500
3. Deputy Commissioner		No pecuniary limit.
4. Divisional Commissioner		Tried appeals without pecuniary limit.
5. Judicial Commissioner		— do —
6. Small Causes Court		Powers according to Act XLII of 1860 (and amended by Act VII of 1861)

TABLE—XXXII

Sanitation & Conservancy Work done in Blocks during Plan Period

Name of the Block	New wells constructed	Existing wells repaired	Step-wells closed	Surface drainage	Latrines constructed	Soakage pits	Urinals	Cattle sheds	Smokeless Chulas	Hand pumps installed
1. Patan	12	19	9	12	19	418	18	25	410	3
2. Khairagarh	16	28	14	28	26	519	19	14	393	3
3. Rajnandgaon	14	29	15	19	14	412	9	4	219	5
4. Berla	6	9	5	16	19	239	3	2	121	—
5. Kawardha	19	10	9	20	12	512	9	2	291	3
6. Saja	5	8	5	8	7	217	6	1	141	3
7. Balod	14	17	8	14	5	380	9	8	421	3
8. Durg	19	15	19	29	18	211	19	8	219	2
9. Chhuikhadan	5	4	—	15	6	249	5	—	194	2
10. Dongargaon	8	15	9	11	4	208	4	—	151	2
11. Gunderdehi	8	20	10	31	6	196	4	6	310	2
12. Dhamsa	20	10	7	12	5	310	5	4	510	1
13. Sahaspur	16	6	6	8	7	197	4	2	219	2
14. Chauki	14	18	7	10	8	314	8	6	417	2
15. Dongargarh	19	16	21	17	18	514	9	5	531	2
16. Gurur	12	6	5	21	8	318	7	5	532	3
17. Nawagarh	13	167	8	21	9	543	6	2	321	3
18. Dondi Lohara	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Chhuria	5	8	4	19	12	521	6	3	432	2
20. Bodla	6	19	16	21	13	427	7	3	329	2
21. Bemetara	16	10	4	21	17	380	8	6	528	2
22. Manpur	19	16	8	14	16	332	4	7	327	1

TABLE—XXXIII

Primary Health Centres & Sub-Centres

S. No.	Location: Place	Location: Tahsil	Date of Estt.	Sub-Centres
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nikum	Durg	2-10-1956	1. Tirga
				2. Kutharel
				3. Chirpoti
2.	Dhamdah	Durg	2-10-1957	4. Meadesara
				5. Godhi
				6. Nawagaon
3.	Gunderdehi	Durg	2-10-1957	7. Kasonda
				8. Bhatgaon
				9. Pangari
4.	Patan	Durg	1-4-1954	10. Selood
				11. Batany
				12. Bhansuli
5.	Khairagarh	Khairagarh	1-4-1957	13. Singarpur
				14. Jalbandha
				15. Bhandarpur
6.	Chhuikhadan	Khairagarh	1-4-1957	16. Bundeli
				17. Thakurtola
				18. Khurmudi
7.	Dongargarh	Khairagarh	1-4-1957	19. Charbhata
				20. Modha
				21. Mohara
8.	Ghumka	Rajnandgaon	1-4-1957	22. Surgi
				23. Somani
				24. Baghora
9.	Chhuria	Rajnandgaon	1-4-1963	Not decided
10.	Dongargaon	Rajnandgaon	1-4-1961	25. Dhangaon
				26. Khursipar
				27. Kokpur
11.	Kawardha	Kawardha	1-4-1955	28. Pipariya
				29. Zirouni
				30. Dashrangpur
12.	Sahaspur-Lohara	Kawardha	1-4-1959	31. Charbhata
				32. Surujpura
				33. Birendranagar

Contd....

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Bodla	Kawardha	1-4-1963	Not decided
14.	Khandsara	Bemetara	1-10-1963	Not decided
15.	Nawagarh	Bemetara	1-10-1962	Not decided
16.	Saja	Bematara	1-4-1955	34. Thelka
				35. Bortara
				36. Parpodi
17.	Borla	Bemetara	1-4-1955	37. Gondgiri
				38. Sarda
				39. Bargaon
18.	Balod	Balod	1-4-1956	40. Belmand
				41. Kusumkasa
				42. Harrotola
19.	Manpur	Balod	1-10-1963	Not decided
20.	Gurur	Balod	1-4-1962	Not decided
21.	Mohalla	Balod	1965-66	Not decided
22.	Dondilohara	Balod	1-4-1963	Not decided
23.	Chauki	Balod	1-10-1955	43. Kaudikasa
				44. Talgaon
				45. Chilahati Kalan

....Concluded

TABLE—XXXIV

List of Janapada Ayurvedic Dispensaries

Name of Dispensary	Name of Tahsil
1	2
1. Dhamdha	Durg
2. Selood	,,
3. Borai	,,
4. Godhi	,,
5. Tarra	,,
6. Nankathi	,,
7. Ranchirai	,,
8. Hirri	,,
9. Bhilai	,,
10. Anda	,,
11. Thanoud	,,
12. Batang	,,
13. Borid	,,
14. Marra	,,
15. Jheet	,,
16. Chourel	,,
17. Kumhari	,,
18. Pendrawan	,,
19. Bharar	,,
20. Jowara	,,
21. Dargaon	,,
22. Batrel	,,
23. Pahador	,,
24. Sibdi	,,
25. Aundhi	,,
26. Deokar	Bemetara
27. Bortara	,,
28. Gondgiri	,,
29. Mohrenga	,,
30. Nandghat	,,

Contd....

1	2
31. Deorbija	,,
32. Badnara	,,
33. Parpodi	,,
34. Mungeli	,,
35. Bhimbhori	,,
36. Bargaon	,,
37. Dadri	,,
38. Chhirha	,,
39. Jeera	,,
40. Somani	Rajnandgaon
41. Padumtara	,,
42. Baghera	,,
43. Surgi	,,
44. Arjuni	,,
45. Sambalpur	,,
46. Chircharikhurd	,,
47. Gaindatola	,,
48. Ashara	,,
49. Tumdihod	,,
50. Dhangaon	,,
51. Rajnandgaon	,,
52. Singhola	,,
53. Amgaon	,,
54. Khobha	,,
55. Khertha	Balod
56. Kusumkasa	,,
57. Belmand	,,
58. Karhibhadar	,,
59. Kanwar	,,
60. Pinakapar	,,
61. Rengadabari	,,
62. Suregaon	,,
63. Faradfod	,,
64. Dondi Kalan	,,
65. Salhewara	Khairagarh
66. Bundeli	,,

Contd....

1	2
67. Pandadeh	"
68. Ataria	"
69. Deori	"
70. Mudhipar	"
71. Bortalab	"
72. Mohara	"
73. Kawardha	Kawardha
74. Rajanawagaon	"
75. Pipatia	"
76. Dashrangpur	"
77. Zirouni	"
78. Marka	"
79. Raveli	"
80. Chechedi	"
81. Chendradadar	"
82. Chiloi	"
83. Surujpura	"
84. Ranbirpur	"

...Concluded

TABLE—XXXV

List of Urban and Rural Family Planning Clinics

S. No.	Location		Staff Position	Date/year of estt.
	Place	Tahsil		
		URBAN		
1.	Durg	Durg	1. Social Worker (Lady) 2. Female Attendant	1-1-1958
2.	Teaching F.P. Centre	Durg**		1956
3.	Mobile Family Planning	Durg		1956
4.	Main Hospital, Bhilai	Durg		1956
5.	Rajnandgaon	Rajnandgaon	1. Social Worker	1-12-1960*
		RURAL		
6.	Patan	Durg	Nil	1-1-1957
7.	Berla	Bemetara	Social Worker	15-4-1960
8.	Ghumka	Rajnandgaon	,,	15-4-1960
9.	Balod	Balod	2. Social Workers (Male and Female)	29-6-1961
10.	Saja	Bemetara	Social Worker	1-10-1963
11.	Chhuikhadan	Khairagarh	,,	1-10-1961
12.	Bundeli	,,	,,	—
13.	Thakurtaola	,,	Attendant	1-1-1964
14.	Khurmuri	,,	Social Worker	1-1-1964
15.	Dongargarh	,,	,,	1-1-1964
16.	Dongargaon	Rajnandgaon	,,	1-10-1961
17.	Gundedehi	Durg	,,	14-12-1962
18.	Khairagarh	Khairagarh	,,	1-3-1963
19.	Jalbandha	,,	,,	1-1-1957
20.	Singarpur	,,	,,	15-10-1963
21.	Bhandarpur	,,	,,	15-10-1963
22.	Kawardha	Kawardha	,,	2-5-1958
23.	Pipariya	,,	,,	Not available
24.	Zirouni	,,	,,	,,
25.	Dashrangpur	,,	,,	,,
26.	Sahaspurlohara	,,	,,	8-3-1964
27.	Chhuriya	Rajnandgaon	,,	1965
28.	Dhamdha	Durg	,,	—
29.	Doadilohaara	Balod	,,	1965
30.	Chauki	,,	,,	1965

* This actually started functioning in 1961-62.

** The teaching F.P. centre is attached to the District Headquarters Hospital, Durg.

TABLE—XXXVIII

Extension of Medical Facilities

Institutions	First Plan	Second Plan	Third Plan
(a) Allopathic medical institutions (at the end of each Plan)			
(i) Hospitals and Dispensaries	16	11	7
(ii) Primary Health Centres	5	14	23
(b) Institutions under indigenous system of medicine (at the end of the Thrid Plan)			
(iii) Homoeopathic Dispensaries			4
(iv) Ayurvedic Dispensaries			13
(v) Government Aided Dispensaries			38
(vi) Unani Dispensaries			..
(vii) Dispensaries run by Tribal Welfare Department			..
(c) Special institutions : Leprosy Hospitals/Clinics (at the end of the Third Plan)			
(viii) Leprosy Hospitals			..
(ix) Leprosy Control Units			..
(x) Survey, Education & Treatment Centres			5
(xi) Special Leprosy Clinics			3
(xii) Clinics attached to PHCs/Disp.			24
(xiii) V. D. Clinics			..
(xiv) T. B. Clinics			1
(xv) Family Planning Clinics (at the end of the First Plan opened during the second and Third Plans) Rural	..	6	20
Urban	..	1	2
(d) Other facilities Blood Bank : (opened during)	..	..	1
P.H. Laboratory (opened during)	..	..	1
Ambulance Service (Provided During)	..	..	1

TABLE—XXXIX

Annual Receipts and Expenditure of Municipalities

Year	Durg		Rajnandgaon		Dongargarh		Kawardha		Khairagarh		Chhuikhadan	
	Receipt	Expenditure (Rs.)	Receipt	Expenditure (Rs.)	Receipt	Expenditure (Rs.)	Receipt	Expenditure (Rs.)	Receipt	Expenditure (Rs.)	Receipt	Expenditure (Rs.)
1947-48			2,66,071	3,06,737	..	—	—	..	—	—	—	—
1960-61	12,71,979	11,97,401	12,30,499	12,14,303	1,68,847	1,60,577	1,19,274	1,04,313	35,265	18,541	45,414	33,977
1961-62	11,54,996	11,10,805	11,98,183	12,22,540	1,82,430	1,58,750	1,27,055	1,12,652	59,576	43,924	52,414	36,320
1962-63	13,87,952	13,76,876	12,96,556	13,62,053	2,07,047	2,06,728	1,62,844	1,43,669	69,666	78,733	74,493	50,127
1963-64	14,44,169	13,79,235	12,58,933	12,86,073	2,62,441	2,41,154	1,47,683	1,37,485	70,799	73,899	74,340	51,435
1964-65	14,61,774	13,94,985	13,11,135	11,60,594	2,21,435	1,88,194	1,59,653	9,48,289	86,181	90,977	75,750	60,921
1965-66	15,79,872	16,58,533	12,41,628	12,55,622	2,57,761	2,20,460	1,75,249	1,53,181	79,012	84,388	60,302	47,183

TABLE—XL

Income and Expenditure of District Council, Durg

INCOME

Year	Local Rates	Receipts under Cattle Trespass Act	Education Receipts	Rents on nazul lands	Ferries	Contributions	Other receipts
1908-09	28,148	15,746	22,042	64	1,386	..	10,952
1910-11	32,398	15,466	22,097	70	1,762	..	10,937
1920-21	32,048	29,873	78,321	62	4,264	76,704	47,946
1930-31	58,169	24,336	60,258	50	4,251	63,694	22,209
1940-41	73,169	20,611	57,940	15	2,950	65,855	41,150
1946-47	1,61,794	37,993	99,193	108	9,610	45,037	1,47,236

EXPENDITURE

Year	Establishment	Cattle-pound Charges	Education	Medical Charges	Civil Works	Veterinary Charges	Other Expenditure
1908-09	3,684	6,518	32,934	6,347	80,015	1,671	1,676
1910-11	3,899	6,049	36,352	6,677	24,819	1,344	1,598
1920-21	9,996	12,791	96,790	14,138	1,08,011	4,008	45,911
1930-31	15,304	12.085	1,11,517	16,688	48,305	3,838	18,522
1940-41	23,577	11,376	96,031	23,860	21,642	5,353	72,417
1946-47	37,176	21,164	1,32,552	40,140	33,675	9,994	1,46,198

TABLE—XLI

Receipts and Expenditure of Janapada Sabhas

Year	Durg Janapada Sabha		Rajnandgaon Janapada Sabha		Kawardha Janapada Sabha		Khairagarh Janapada Sabha		Baloda Janapada Sabha	
	Receipt	Expenditure	Receipt	Expenditure	Receipt	Expenditure	Receipt	Expenditure	Receipt	Expenditure
1956-57	6,73,711	6,47,702	4,81,227	4,60,427	1,55,941	3,26,103	8,13,895	3,90,289	8,13,496	5,30,041
1957-58	8,72,692	12,39,680	5,33,648	5,50,369	3,95,235	3,94,370	10,15,821	4,86,977	13,10,630	6,25,615
1958-59	9,11,694	10,51,780	5,62,297	5,87,293	3,80,442	4,00,392	10,54,143	6,29,051	14,49,700	8,40,647
1959-60	9,27,109	8,80,811	6,68,446	6,40.162	4,25,918	3,78,080	10,63,235	7,31,489	15,18,333	8,45,471
1960-61	12,06,614	10,28,544	8,24,107	7,47,822	4,24,190	4,08,397	14,00,769	8,39,482	22,46,568	9,84,286
1961-62	12,13,923	12,88,184	6,56,533	7,82,698	3,63,236	4,12,561	12,06,875	7,87,438	16,69,131	9,95,403
1962-63	20,63,370	19,21,700	8,81,812	8,81,730	6,02,786	4,22,469	16,62,069	9,40,245	23,41,549	13,90,057
1963-64	19,14,086	13,90,314	6,05,402	5,68,869	4,45,878	5,15,406	..	6,21,298	12,03,536	7,38,136
1964-65	5,42,247	5,76,722	3,55,788	2,77,115	..	..	3,39,563	3,09,624	..	..
1965-66	4,88,972	6,66,246	3,55,840	3,17,269	..	..	4,71,035	4,64,200	..	..

TABLE—XLII

Tahsilwise No. of Public Trusts, 1972

Nature of Public Trusts	No. of Public Trusts in					
	Durg	Balod	Khajragarh	Rajnandgaon	Kawardha	Bemetera
(1) Educational	2	..	..	2		
(2) Medical	2	..	..	..		
(3) Purely Religious	11	1	8	10	N.A	N.A
(4) Partly Religious and Partly Social	3	..	..	..		
(5) Rendering other Social Services	2	..	..	4		

APPENDIX—B—I

List of Important Fairs

Sl. No. (1)	Place where fair is held (2)	When Held: Hindi Months (3)	When Held: English months (4)	Local religious or other occasion of the Fair (5)	Duration of the Fair (in days) (6)	Average total Attendance (7)
				1. KAWARDHA TAHSIL		
1.	Shinghangarh	Chaitra	March/April	Kunwar Achhariya-Mela	4	5,000
2.	Jhirna	Magha Sudi 15	January/February	Magha Poornima	1	5,000
3.	Khartara	Magha Sudi 15	January/February	Magha Poornima	3	4,000
4.	Sahaspur	Magha Sudi 15	January/February	Magha Poornima	2	3,000
5.	Chhapri	Phalguna Badi 13	February/March	Shivratri	1	7,000
6.	Dasrangpur	Phalguna Badi 13	February/March	Pritampur Mela Shivratri	1	5,000
7.	Jashtola	Phalguna	February/March	Pritampur Mela		
				2. KHAIRAGARH TAHSIL		
8.	Dongargarh	Chaitra Sudi 8-9	March/April	Navratri	2	4,000/ 5,000
9.	Khairagarh Town	Asvina Sudi 10	September/October	Dasahra	1	5,000/ 7,000
10.	Dongargarh	Asvina Sudi 8-9	September/October	Navratri	2	4,000/ 5,000
11.	Chaknar	Magha Sudi 15	January/February	Magha Poornima	3	2,000/ 3,000
				3. BEMETARA TAHSIL		
12.	Berla	Pausa	December/January	Berla Mela	3	10,000/12,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			4. RAJNANDGAON TAHSIL			
13.	Mohara	Kartika Sudi 15	October/November	Worship of Shiva	1	25,000
14.	Rajnandgaon	Agrahayana	November/December	Kali Mai	1	5,000
15.	Rajnandgaon		No fixed date	Urs Saiyad Baba Atalshah	2	10,000
			5. DURG TAHSIL			
16.	Changori	Phalguna Badi 13	February/March	Shivratri	2	
17.	Durg		February	Urs Hazrat Baba Abdul Rehman Shah Kabuli	3	8,000/10,000
			9. SANJARI BALOD TAHSIL			
			NIL			

APPENDIX—B—II

List of Weekly or Fortnightly Markets

1. KAWARDHA TAHSIL

URBAN

I-WARD NO. 9 (Thursday)

RURAL

Durjanpur (Friday); Chilphi (Thursday); Bodla (Sunday and Wednesday) Pondi (Friday) Raveli (Sunday) Rajanawagaon (Sunday and Tuesday); Jhalmala (Sunday); Marka (Wednesday); Pipariya (Sunday); Dhanraban (Tuesday) Jhalmala (Monday) Koilardih (Tuesday) Rengakhar (Monday); Indouri (Friday) Chachedi (Sunday) Semhariya (Monday); Charbhatha (Monday) Dashrangpur (Wednesday) Bochedi (Saturday); Lohara (Tuesday); Birendra Nagar (Saturday) Ramhepur (Friday); Rengatola (Thursday); Silhati (Saturday); Ranbirpur (Tuesday) Gaurmati (Wednesday) Bhimbhori (Friday); Singhanpuri (Friday): Ranjitpur (Tuesday); Dongariya (Friday); Bidora (Friday) Singhangarh (Friday); Mohgaon (Thursday); Khamhariya (Wednesday);

2. KHAIRAGARH TAHSIL

URBAN

II-CHHUIKHADAN

Ward No. 3 (Saturday); Ward No. 6 (Wednesday)

III-KHAIRAGARH

Ward No. 9 (Sunday)

IV-DONGARGARH

Ward No. 4 (Sunday); Ward No. 9 (Wednesday)

Non-Municipal Urban Area (Circle No. 1 (Friday)

RURAL

Palimta (Thursday); Pandcria (Wednesday); Kopebhata (Sunday and Monday) Thakurtola (Thursday); Bundeli (Thursday); Udaipur (Monday) Padmawatipur (Wednesday); Ragra (Friday) Ataria (Tuesday) Deori (Monday); Singhori (Thursday); Kamatha (Thursday) Itar (Saturday) Pandadah (Thursday); Madrakuhi (Friday); Baigatola (Wednesday); Galbandh (Wednesday); Sonbhata (Tuesday); Gadaghat (Thursday); Mudhipar (Friday) Banbod (Sunday) Bhandarpur (Monday); Chichola (Thursday) Singapur (Tuesday) Tulsipur (Saturday); Nawagaon Alha (Monday); Dhara (Tuesday and Friday); Pachapedi (Friday) Gataparkala (Friday); Mahrumkalan (Friday) Khaprichethu (Tuesday); Bicharpur (Wednesday); Mohara (Saturday) Boretalab (Saturday); Thakurtola (Friday); Bhiari (Monday) Belgaon (Wednesday); Purena (Wednesday); Nagtarai (Saturday) Jatkanhar (Friday); Andi (Friday) Kasari

(Friday) Sitagota (Tuesday) Musrakala (Monday) Madiyan (Wednesday) Bagrakasa (Thursday Ramatola (Saturday) Rengakatrea (Sunday) Medha (Monday) Dhan dongri (Friday) Charbhata (Monday) Nayangarh Alis Maheootala (Monday and Tuesday); Lalbahadurnagar (Thrusday) Baghnadi (Saturday); Kohihapuri (Tuesday);

3. BEMETARA TAHSIL

URBAN

NIL

RURAL

Chhirha (Saturday); Nagpura (Thursday); Khamhi (Wednesday); Ranbod (Monday); Jhal (Friday) Mohtara (Sunday) Pachbhaiya (Sunday) Chargawan (Sunday) Pendri (Thursday) Nawagarh (Sunday) Mutra (Thursday); Dadhi (Friday and Monday); Kamta (Saturday) Odiya (Monday) Tora (Friday) Maro (Monday) Berar (Tuesday) Hathadadu (Wednesday) Tendo (Saturday) Andhijarbhor (Monday) Dadnara (Thursday); Chakrawai (Thursday) Katai (Thursday) Narayanpur (Tuesday); Kanhera (Thursday) Kunwara (Tuesday); Nawagaon (Monday) Khandasara (Tuesday); Malda (Saturday); Ghursena (Sunday) Temri (Tuesday) Khamaria (Sunday) Kurud (Sunday) Segena (Monday) Mutpuri (Monday) Kosa (Sunday) Tuma (Tuesday) Mau (Friday) Nandghat (Friday) Gheori (Friday) Kapa (Monday); Hatranka (Friday) Chilphi (Saturday); Darga (Monday) Balsamund (Monday) Bemetara (Saturday and Wednesday) Khudmudi (Friday) Mohrenga (Saturday) Kandai (Monday) Deorbija (Saturday and Tuesday) Bijabhat (Thursday); Saja (Tuesday) Bhedni (Thursday) Kongia Kalan (Saturday); Bortara (Wednesday) Jeora (Monday); Kodwa (Friday) Ranka (Wednesday); Mobhatta (Monday) Kathia (Friday) Bhatgaon (Saturday) Bhojepura (Thursday); Basin (Monday) Taksiwan (Sunday) Sarda (Friday) Parpodi (Friday) Suripura (Tuesday); Bharchatti (Friday); Silghat (Sunday); Pahanda (Sunday); Deokar (Sunday and Wednesday); Taralim (Thursday); Kharra (Thursday); Sondh (Wednesday); Bargaon (Monday); Hathibod (Saturday), Barla (Saturday); Sasumi (Monday); Anandgaon (Friday); Bahera (Thursday); Bansa (Sunday); Sarholi (Tuesday); Sankara (Tuesday) Dewada (Friday); Khud muda (Thursday); Chandi (Monday); Neonara (Tuesday); Bhinbhori (Friday); Gondgiri (Wednesday) Gudheli (Saturday);

4. RAJNANDGAON TAHSIL

URBAN

V. RAJNANDGAON

Ward No. 14 (Sunday)

Ward No. 15 (Sunday)

Non-Municipal Urban Area Circle No. 1 (Friday)

Circle No. 3 (Friday)

Masul (Thursday); Patewa (Saturday); Saharpurdalli (Wednesday); Kakwa (Monday) Ghumka (Saturday); Saloni (Wednesday); Gidhawa (Monday) Harduwa (Sunday); Uparwah (Sunday-Thursday); Dumardhih (Sunday) Basula (Friday) Padumtara (Wednesday);

Khairjhiti (Monday) Dumardih Khurd (Thursday); Baghera (Wednesday) Mudipar (Saturday); Nawagaon (Saturday) Teka (Thursday) Kardi (Thursday) Konketara (Saturday) Bhendi Kalan (Thursday); Budela (Thursday); Peteshri (Friday); Bankal (Friday); Somani (Thursday); Sankara (Friday); Argaon (Saturday); Dhaba (Wednesday) Alikhuta (Saturday); Telinhandha (Wednesday) Malaidabri (Friday); Nachanpur (Thursday) Paneka (Thursday) Kanharpuri (Tuesday) Bharregaon (Thursday) Baputola (Tuesday) Nagar Kohara (Sunday) Pendarwas (Monday) Rampur (Wednesday); Jungalpur (Monday) Mohad (Friday); Jangleshar (Monday) Talairawan (Saturday) Hardi (Thursday) Sangin Kachhar (Sunday) Margaon (Sunday) Singhola (Saturday) Surgi (Thursday & Saturday) Ghordha (Wednesday); Nagarjpur (Sunday); Karamtara (Thursday) Job (Thursday) Chhuriya (Friday) Ratanpaya (Wednesday) Aori Tola (Wednesday); Bhakharoo Tola (Monday) Bamhani Charbhatha (Saturday) Bholapur (Saturday) Sewata Tola (Thursday) Dongargaon (Thursday) Khursipar (Wednesday) Salhe (Sunday) Belragondi (Sunday): Khujji (Sunday) Badra Tola (Friday) Badgaon Charbhatha (Monday) Gaindatola (Thursday) Amgaon (Sunday) Chando (Monday) Ratanbhath (Wednesday) Jhoshilamli (Thursday) Chirchar Kalan (Saturday); Kumarda (Tuesday) Kuhikala (Sunday) Mawali Chuua (Friday) Charbhatha (Monday) Umarwah (Tuesday) Gondalwahi (Wednesday)

5. DURG TAHSIL

URBAN

VI-DURG

Ward No. 26 (Saturday)

VII-BHILAINAGAR

Ward No. 9, 10, 11 (Sunday)

Ward No. 12, 13, (Sunday)

Ward No. 21, 22, (Wednesday)

Ward No. 25, 26 (Monday)

Ward No. 27 (Sunday)

RURAL

Pendri (Friday) Mohalai (Thursday) Tarkori (Tuesday) Nawagaon (Wednesday) Dargaon (Sunday) Raunda (Friday) Barhapur (Thursday) Mohrenga (Friday) Dhamdha Kalan (Tuesday) Pendritarai (Monday) Ghotia (Sunday) Nandni Khundni (Sunday) Semariya (Sunday) Chicha (Saturday) Bhedesara (Monday) Deorijhal (Wednesday) ; Litya (Monday) Boribuzurg (Friday) Nankthi (Sunday-Thursday) Kodiya (Saturday) Ahiwara (Saturday) Godhi (Monday) Bodegaon (Monday) Aheri (Friday) Kapsada (Wednesday) Akola (Friday) Basing (Saturday) Kherdha (Friday) Kadarka (Friday) Hirri (Thursday) Anjora (Wednesday) Khedamara (Tuesday) Damod (Thursday) Borai (Tuesday-Saturday) Nagpur (Monday-Friday) Sirsakhurd (Thursday) Sundung (Thursday); Khursul (Monday) Jarway (Monday) Janjgiri (Tuesday) Kumhari (Sunday) Rasmada (Wednesday-Sunday) Junwani (Monday) Supela (Sunday) Deobalauda (Thursday) Urla (Monday) Kukda (Wednesday) Sirsa Kalan (Monday) Pahanda (Tuesday) Aundhi (Sunday); Nardhi (Wednesday) Sankra (Friday) Anjora (Thursday) Risali (Monday) Ganiyari (Tuesday); Amlidih (Wednesday) Motipur (Saturday) Thanod

(Monday) Chankhuri (Sunday-Wednesday) Umerpoti (Sunday); Ameri (Tuesday) Jamgaon (Friday) Jhin (Monday) Mahuda (Friday) Birejhar (Wednesday) Purai (Tuesday) Utai (Tuesday-Friday); Patora (Wednesday) Alibaras (Tuesday); Achhoti (Sunday); Kutharel (Tuesday) Janjgiri (Monday) Pouwara (Wednesday) Khopli (Monday); Selood (Tuesday) Tarra (Sunday) Sawani (Tuesday) Khudmudi (Wednesday) Chicha (Thursday) Deori (Friday) Tirga (Saturday) Nikum (Tuesday-Thursday); Binayakpur (Saturday) Kataro (Wednesday); Phunda (Wednesday) Demar (Saturday) Bathena (Friday) Khursuni (Tuesday); Godela (Saturday); Khursul (Wednesday); Bhilai Kalan (Saturday); Machandur (Tuesday) Sirri (Thursday); Satra (Saturday); Devda (Monday) Pander (Thursday) Patan (Tuesday-Everyday); Mohdipat (Sunday) Oteband (Friday) Sirsida (Monday) Sukhri (Wednesday); Kanakot (Monday) Gadadih (Saturday) Marra (Wednesday) Soram (Sunday) Tarrighat (Sunday); Bharda (Friday) Gadadik (Saturday) Marra (Wednesday) Soram (Sunday) Tarrighat (Sunday); Bharda (Friday) Chicha (Friday) Parsada (Saturday) Gorkapar (Thursday) Khapri (Sunday); Tiloda (Thursday); Godhiari (Tuesday) Semari (Saturday) Gujara (Friday); Mahud (Wednesday); Odarsakari (Saturday) Gurda (Tuesday) Pauwara (Thursday) Baludi (Sunday) Darbar Mokhali (Friday) Borid (Thursday); Teligaudra (Friday) Bhansuli (Sunday) Kesra (Wednesday); Rauna (Friday) Kachandur (Saturday) Parsahi (Tuesday) Kumhali (Tuesday) Arjunda (Monday-Thursday) Kandul (Sunday); Bhathagaon (Friday) Jamgaon (Saturday); Asoga (Saturday); Chainganj (Wednesday) Didabhata (Monday) Kauhi (Sunday) Surpa (Tuesday) Kotgaon (Sunday) Kalanpur (Monday); Nipani (Wednesday) Khuteri (Friday) Batrel (Sunday) Belhari (Thursday) Kikermeta (Monday) Dudera (Monday) Silosa (Tuesday-Friday) Borgahan (Saturday) Pairee (Monday) Kanround (Thursday); Biretara (Sunday) Bhatgaon (Friday) Mahud (Thursday); Chichbod (Monday) Sankari (Wednesday) Bhusrenga (Friday) Haldi (Saturday-Wednesday); Belaodi (Tuesday) Satumari (Saturday) Hardi (Saturday); Pinkapar (Friday);

9. SANJARI BALOD TAHSIL

URBAN

VIII. RAJHARA-JHARANDALLI

Circle No. 3 (Sunday)

RURAL

Hardi (Saturday); Pinkapar (Friday) Mujgahan (Sunday) Mujgahan (Sunday); Chendriban Nawagaon (Wednesday); Aunri (Friday) Khamtarai (Thursday); Ranitarai (Wednesday); Nahunda (Saturday); Kenwat Nawagaon (Saturday); Fardfod (Thursday); Jhitiya (Sunday); Suregaon (Wednesday); Hadgahan (Friday) Salhey (Sunday); Bhandera (Sunday) Khertha (Friday) Bhendi (Friday) Gheena (Sunday); Mudiya (Monday); Achooli (Thursday); Dengarapar (Thursday) Bhimkanhar (Saturday); Kapsi (Tuesday); Sanjari (Monday) Farddih (Friday) Kosami (Friday) Gundardihi (Wednesday); Kochera (Monday) Papara (Sunday): Arkar (Saturday) Atara (Friday) Bharai (Sunday) Rengakothera (Saturday) Amatola (Monday); Dhadhutola (Wednesday-Sunday) Kotera (Monday) Koba (Thursday) Sambalpur (Sunday) Banjari (Saturday); Badgaon (Wednesday) Khaira (Thursday); Sankara (Monday) Sangali (Thursday) Bhadsena (Thursday) Nawagaon (Monday) Latabod (Monday) Kanwar (Friday); Chhilahati (Friday) Chauki (Monday) Dudhali (Saturday) Nipani (Monday); Mahud Machandur (Monday) Madyakatta (Monday) Tamora (Friday Mongara (Tuesday) Atargaon (Thursday) Balod (Wednesday-Sunday); Belmand (Saturday); Pondi (Sunday) Matiya (Sunday) Arajuni (Monday) Bagdai (Wednesday); Penwaro (Thursday) Bodara (Tuesday) Narbada (Tuesday) Pandari Tarai (Saturday); Mangchuwa (Friday) Jalmala (Monday);

Karahibadar (Tuesday); Mujagahan (Saturday); Sorar (Saturday) Bharda (Saturday); Tarri (Wednesday); Ghoghopuri (Monday) Mud-Par (Sunday); Kaudikasa (Friday) Bhanwaimara (Tuesday) Dangarh (Sunday); Dewarbhat (Friday) Sankara (Friday) Tengana (Friday) Gurur (Thursday); Kaneri (Friday) Miritola (Wednesday) Arjkund (Thursday) Chulhapathara (Saturday) Naragaon (Thursday) Dumartola (Saturday) Ghothiya (Sunday) Beloda (Friday) Bhostola (Monday) Bijaipur (Wednesday) Gotatola (Monday) Mohala (Friday) Chikhali (Tuesday) Pateli (Monday) Korromtola (Sunday) Suroli (Tuesday) Bharritola (Tuesday) Pandarwani (Monday) Yetegaroda (Saturday) Khardi (Sunday) Kunwagaoni (Tuesday) Bharritola (Saturday) Manpur (Tuesday) Kohaka (Monday) Kotari (Thursday) Aundhi (Monday).

APPENDIX—B—III

List of Post Offices, Telegraph and Public Call Offices

S. No.	Name	Type of Office	Whether telegraph and telephone facilities also exist
1	2	3	4
	DURG	Head Office	P.C.O., T.O.
1.	Anda	Branch Office	
2.	Bori	,,	
3.	Borid	,,	
4.	Chand Khuri	,,	
5.	Dagnama	,,	
6.	Dewada	,,	
7.	Dhaur	,,	
8.	Hirri	,,	
9.	Jamgaon	,,	
10	Jeorasirsa	,,	
11.	Kanakot	,,	
12.	K[illegible]	,,	
13	[illegible]	,,	
14	Mahor[illegible]	,,	
15	Merra	,,	
16.	[illegible]	,,	
17.	Nandkathi	,,	
18.	Newai	,,	
19.	Nik[illegible]	,,	
20.	Patan	,,	

1	2	3	4
21.	Rasmara	Branch Office	
22.	Selud	,,	
23.	Tarra	,,	
24.	Thanod	,,	
25.	Tirga	,,	
26.	Utai	,,	
27.	Matwari	,,	
28.	Darbar Mokhli	,,	
	Administrative Office (Bhilai)	Town Sub-Office	T.O.
	Balod	Sub-Office	P.C.O., T.O.
1.	Admabad	Branch Office	
2.	Barhi	,,	
3.	Belmand	,,	
4.	Daundi Lohara	,,	
5.	Dhaneli	,,	
6.	Dudhie	,,	
7.	Farad fod	,,	
8.	Gurar	,,	
9.	Jamgaon	,,	
10.	Khertha bazar	,,	
11.	Koba	,,	
12.	Nahanda	,,	
13.	Nipani	,,	
14.	Serar	,,	
15.	Sanjari	,,	
	Bazar Rajnandgaon	Town Sub-Office	T.O.
	Bemetara	Sub-Office	P.C.O., T.O.
1.	Andhiar Khore	Branch Office	
2.	Balsamund	,,	
3.	Bargaon	,,	
4.	Bawamohtra	,,	
5.	Bijabhat	,,	
6.	Chhirba	,,	
7.	Dadhi	,,	
8.	Ghogra	,,	
9.	Hatroka	,,	

1	2	3	4
10.	Kanhera	Branch Office	
11.	Karesara	,,	
12.	Kattai	,,	
13.	Khamaria	,,	
14.	Khandsara	,,	
15.	Lenjwara	,,	
16.	Mohrenga	,,	
17.	Nawagarh	,,	
18.	Paratapour	,,	
19.	Ranka	,,	
20.	Sarda	,,	
21.	Tuma	,,	
22.	Jeora	,,	
	Bhilai	Sub-Office	
	Bhilai Boria	Town Sub-Office	P.C O.
	Bhilai Civic Centre	Sub-Office	
	Bhilai (East)	Sub-Office	
1.	Aundhi	Branch Office	
2.	Janjgiri	,,	
3.	Kumbari	,,	
4.	Pahandor	,,	
5.	Urla	,,	
	Bhilai Marshalling Yard Sub Office		
	Chhuikhadan	Sub-Office	T.O.
1.	Ataria	Branch Office	
2.	Gandai Pandaria	,,	
3.	Kusmi (Ataria)	,,	
4.	Sandi	,,	
5.	Thakurtola	,,	
6.	Udaipur	,,	
	Dalli Rajhara	Sub-Office	P.C.O., T.O.
1.	Dondi Awari	Branch Office	
2.	Kusumkasa	,,	

1	2	3	4
	Dhamdha	Sub-Office	
1.	Anandgaon	Branch Office	
2.	Beltara	,,	
3.	Berla	,,	
4.	Biroda	,,	
5.	Chilfi	,,	
6.	Deokar	,,	
7.	Deori	,,	
8.	Deorbija	,,	
9.	Ghota	,,	
10.	Gadadih	,,	
11	Kusmi	,,	
12.	Moghgaon	,,	
13.	Mohbatta	,,	
14.	Parpodi	,,	
15.	Pendrawan	,,	
16.	Saja	,,	
	Dongargarh	Sub-Office	
1.	Bortalab	Branch Office	
2.	Dhara	,,	
3.	Jatkanhar	,,	
4.	Mohara	,,	
5.	Mendha	,,	
6.	Mustra	,,	
	Dongargaon	Sub-Office	
1.	Ambagarh	Branch Office	
2.	Bandha bazar	,,	
3.	Bharritola	,,	
4.	Chilhati	,,	
5.	Chirchari Kalan	,,	
6.	Dangrah	,,	
7.	Ghotatola	,,	
8.	Kandikasa	,,	
9.	Khujji	,,	
10.	Mahudmachhandur	,,	
11.	Manpur	,,	
12.	Mohalla	,,	
13.	Pinkapar	,,	

1	2	3	4
14.	Rengadabri	Branch Office	
15.	Amatola	,,	
16.	Manchna	,,	
17.	Amgaon	,,	
18.	Mudpar	,,	
	Durg	Town Sub-Office	P.C.O.
	Durg Ganj	Town Sub-Office	
	Gunderdehi	Sub-Office	
1.	Achaud	Branch Office	
2.	Arjunda	,,	
3.	Armari Kalan	,,	
4.	Betrel	,,	
5.	Bharda Kalan	,,	
6.	Dundera	,,	
7.	Hardi	,,	
8.	Kasonda	,,	
9.	Latabod	,,	
10	Pairi	,,	
11.	Ranchirai	,,	
12.	Ranitarai	,,	
13.	Sankra Jaganathpur	,,	
14.	Sikosa	,,	
15.	Suregaon	,,	
16.	Supra	,,	
17.	Khudmuda	,,	
18.	Chorkapar	,,	
	Jamul Cement Works	Sub-Office	
	Kawardha	Sub-Office	
1.	Bodla	Branch Office	
2.	Birendranagar	,,	
3.	Chachedi	,,	
4.	Charbhata	,,	
5.	Dashrangpur	,,	
6.	Jhironi	,,	
7.	Maharajpur	,,	
8.	Piparia	,,	

1	2	3	4
9.	Pondi	Branch Office	
10.	Reweli	,,	
11.	Saroda	,,	
12.	Sahaspur Lohara	,,	
13.	Silhati	,,	
14.	Singangarh	,,	
15.	Indori	,,	
	Kheragarhraj	Sub-Office	P.C.O., T.O.
1.	Randadah	Branch Office	
2.	Singanpur	,,	
	Khursipar (Bhilai)		
	Nandini	Sub-Office	
1.	Aniwara	Branch Office	
2.	Godhi	,,	
3.	Godgiri	,,	
4.	Gudheli	,,	
5.	Semaria	,,	
	Nawagaon (Bhilai)	Sub-Office	P.C.O., T.O.
	Rajnandgaon	Branch Office	
1.	Arjuni	,,	
2.	Asra	,,	
3.	Bakal	,,	
4.	Bijatola	,,	
5.	Chichola	,,	
6.	Chhuria	,,	
7.	Gaindatola	,,	
8.	Ghumka	,,	
9.	Mahrum Kalan	,,	
10.	Mudhipara	,,	
11.	Padamtola	,,	
12.	Patowa	,,	
13.	Singhola	,,	
14.	Surgi	,,	
15.	Somni	,,	
16.	Tundibod	,,	
17.	Uperwaha	,,	
	Sadar Bazar Durg	Town-Sub-Office	

Note:—T.O.—Telegraph Office; P.C.O.—Public Call Office

APPENDIX—B-IV

List of Rest-Houses

Situation of Rest-House	Name of Road	Where situated	
		Miles	km.
1. Khairagarh	Rajnandgaon-Khairagarh Road	42	67.59
2. Rajnandgaon	Khairagarh Road	18	28.96
3. Tappa	Great Eastern Road	33	53.11
4. Chhuikhadan	Great Eastern Road	50	80.47
5. Kawardha	Chhuikhadan-Silhati-Kawardha Road	78	126.53
6. Dongargarh	Rajnandgaon-Dongargarh Road	34	54.72
7. Chhuria	Chichola-Chhuria Road	48	77.25
8. Saja	Kodwa-Saja Road	32	51.50
9. Chhuikhadan	Chhuikhadan Station Road	—	—
10. Durg	Durg Station Road	—	—
11. Dhamda	Durg-Dhamda-Bemetara Road	21	33.79
12. Bemetara	Durg-Bemetara Road	45	72.42
13. Gunderdehi	Durg-Gunderdehi-Balod Road	17	27.36
14. Balod	Durg-Gunderdehi Road	34	54.72
15. Gurur	Dhamtari-Balod Road	47	75.64
16. Dondi	Rajnandgaon-Antagarh Road	63	101.34
17. Boria-Dhamtari	Moorumgaon Road	66	106.22
18. Ambargarh	Rajnandgaon-Chowki-Manpur Road	50	80.47

APPENDIX—B—V

Conversion Table

I. WEIGHTS

Table

10 milligrams (mg)	=1 centigram
10 centigrams	=1 decigram
10 decigrams	=1 gram (1 g=1000 mg)
10 grams	=1 dekagram
10 dekagrams	=1 hectogram
10 hectograms	=1 kilogram (1 kg=1000 g)
10 kilograms	=1 myriogram
10 myriograms	=1 quintal
10 quintals	=1 metric tonne (1 tonne=1000 kg)

From old units to new units:

1 Tola	=11.66 grams
1 Chhatak	=58.32 grams
1 Seer	=933.10 grams
1 Maund	=37.32 Kg.
1 Grain	=0.0648 gram
1 Ounce	=28.35 grams
1 Pound	=453.59 grams =45359 Kg.
1 Quarter	=12.706 kg.
1 Handerweight	=50.80 kg.
1 Ton	=1016.05 kg.

From new units to old units:

1 Gram	=0.085735 tola =15.4324 grams = 0.0352740 ounce
1 Kilogram	=1.07169 Seer =2.20462 lbs.
1 Quintal	=2.67923 maunds =220.46 lbs.
1 Metric tonne	=26.7923 maunds =0.9842 ton

II. LENGTH

Table

10 millimetres (mm)	=1 centimetre (cm)
10 centimetres	=1 decimetre
10 decimetres	=1 metre (1m=100 cms=1000mm)

10 metres	=1 dekametre
10 dekametres	=1 hectometre
10 hectometres	=1 kilometre (1 km=1000 m)

From old units to new units:

1 inch	=2.54 cms. =25.4 mms. =0.0254 m.
1 foot	=30.48 cms. =0.3048 m.
1 yard	=91.44 cms. =0.9144 m
1 furlong	=201.168 m.
1 mile	=1.609344 km. =1609.344 m.
1 chain	=20.1168 m.

From new units to old units:

1 mm.	=0.0394 inch
1 cm.	=0.393701 inch
1 decimetre	=3.937 inch
1 m.	=1.09361 yds. =3.28084 feet =39.3701 inches =0.0497097 chain =0.00497097 furlong
1 hectometre	=0.062173 mile
1 kilometre (km)	=0.62137 mile

III CAPACITY

Table

10 Millilitres (ml)	=1 centilitre
10 centilitres	=1 decilitre
10 decilitres	=1 litre (I L—1000 ml.)
10 litres	=1 dekalitre
10 dekalitres	=1 hectolitre
10 hectolitres	=1 kilolitre

From old units to new units:

1 Ounce	=28 ml (to the nearest ml.)
1 gill	=142 ml. (to the nearest ml)
1 pint	=568 ml (to the nearest ml.) =0.56825 L
1 quart	=1 litre and 136 ml. (do) =1.13649 L
1 gallon	=4.54596 L
1 liquid seer	=940 ml. (to the nearest 10 ml.)

From new units to old units:

1 litre	=1.75980 pints
	=0.87990 quart
	=0.219975 gallon
	=1.1 liquid seer—(Approx)
	=35 liquid ounces (do)
	=1000.028 cubic centimetres
	=85.735 tolas of pure water
	=61.025 cubic inches
	=1.000028 cubic decimetres
1 kilolitre	=1.000028 cubic metres

IV VOLUME

Table

1000 cubic millimetres	=1 cubic centimetre
1000 cubic centimetres	=1 cubic decimetre
1000 cubic decimetres	=1 cubic metre

From old units to new units

1 cubic inch	=16.3871 cubic centimetres
1 cubic foot	=28.3168 cubic decimetres =28.316 litres
1 cubic yard	=0.76455 cubic metre
1 gallon	=0.00454609 cubic metre =4.5496 litres =4.54609 cubic decimetres
1 ounce	=28.4132 cubic centimetres
1 gill	=142.066 cubic centimetres
1 pint	=568.2440 cubic centimetres =0.56825 litre
1 quart	=1.1365 litres
1 litre	=1000.028 cubic centimetres =1.000028 cubic decimetres

From new units to old units:

1 cubic centimetre	=0.061024 cubic inch =0.0070390 gill =0.0351949 ounce
1 cubic decimetre	=0.0353147 cubic foot =0.219969 gallon =0.99997 litre
1 cubic metre	=35.315 cubic foot =1.30795 cubic yard =219.969 gallon =0.99997 kilolitre

V AREA

Table

100 square millimetres	=1 square centimetre
100 cm. square millimetres	=1 square decimetre
100 square decimetres	=1 sq. metre (1 sq. m.=10000 sq. cm.)
100 sq. metres	=1 acre or 1 sq. dekametre
100 acres	=1 hectare of 1 sq. hectometre (1 hectare (ha)=10000 sq. m)
100 hectares	=1 square kilometre

From old units to new units:

1 sq. inch	=6.4516 sq. cm. =0.00064516 sq. m.
1 sq. foot	=929.03 sq. cm. =0.092903 sq. m. =9.2903 sq. decimetres
1 sq. yard	=0.83613 sq. metre =0.00831613 acre
1 cent	=40.4686 sq. metres
1 sq. chain	=404.686 sq. metres
1 acre (4840 sq. Yds or 10 sq. chains)	=0.404686 hectare =40.4686 acres
1 sq. mile (640 acres)	=258.999 hectares =2.58999 sq. kilometres

From new units to old units:

1 square cm.	=0.155000 sq. inch
1 sq. metre	=1550.00 sq. inch =10.7639 sq. foot =1.19599 sq. yard
1 acre	=119.599 sq. yard =0.0247105 acres
1 hectare	=2.47105 acres
1 sq. kilometre	=0.386101 sq. mile

APPENDIX—B—VI

List of Freedom Fighters of the District

Block/S. No.	Name of Freedom Fighter
1	2
DURG	
1	Shri Kapilnath S/o Prabhu Dayal, Brahman, Durg (wife Sediya bai)
2	,, Vishnu Prasad Chaube S/o Sukh Prasad Chaube, Brahman Para, Durg
3	,, Amarchand, S/o Shivram Verma, Durg
4	,, Ghanshyam Singh, S/o Gendsingh Gupta
5	,, Sharavan Kumar S/o Shri Padmaji Dovade, Durg
6	,, Dhaniram S/o Jago Teli, Durg
7	,, Nandram S/o Kashiram Barchhiha, Durg
8	,, Girdharidas, S/o Purshottamdas Manik puri, Kuthrel
9	,, Gangabal Prasad Kuber Prasad Chaube, Durg
10	,, Chandi Prasad S/o Ghasiram Gupta, Durg,
11	,, Derharam S/o Mungiyaram Patel, Pori
12	,, Govardhanlal S/o Ganga Vishnu, Ganj para, Durg
13	,, Ratnakar Jha S/o Pratikar Jha, Durg
14	,, Narendralal S/o Badguji Katare, Durg
15	,, Kedarnath S/o Mohan Tamrakar, Durg
16	,, Tilochana S/o Rambharosa, Kuthrel
17	,, Chetan S/o Biseshar, Anda
18	,, Vashudev S/o Shridharram Kiroli kar, Durg
19	Late Shri Narsingh Prasad S/o Biharilal Agrawal, Durg, (Widow Ayavati Bai)
20	Shri Dhanrao S/o Shri Hiralal Deshlehara, Durg
21	,, Mangulal S/o Kunjbiharilal Shrivastava Jawahar Chauk, Durg
22	,, Ramratan Prasad S/o Ganga Prasad Gupta, Durg
23	,, Ram Kumar S/o Lakshmi Narayan Singrol, Ganj para, Durg
24	,, Vishvanath Yadav S/o Yadavram (wife Padmavati), Durg
25	,, Kanhaiyalal S/o Ruhella Sahu, Kuthrel
26	Late Shri Ramadhar S/o Shivprasad Nayak, Durg (Wife Bhagvati)
27	Shri Dinanth S/o Keshavram Nayak, Ganiyari
28	,, Murlidhar Alias Balvant S/o Bakaram, Astikar, Bhilai, Durg,
29	,, Bhagvati S/o Rambharosa Chandrika, Baiga para, Durg
30	,, Lakhanlal S/o Khemau Singh, Kutbrel
31	,, Vasudev S/o Marotirao Deshmukh, Harra
32	,, Lakshman S/o Marotirao Deshmukh, Harra
33	,, Shambhudayal S/o Surajdeen Mishra
34	,, Jagdish prasad S/o Devisingh Gupta, Nagpura

1	2
DURG	
35	Shri Raghunandan Prasad Singharol S/o Lakshmi Narayan Singh, Ganj Para, Durg
36	,, Udhoram S/o Anandiram, Sirmour
37	,, Banshilal S/o Dashrathlal, Swarankar, Durg
38	,, Halal Khor S/o Sonuram, Aanda
39	,, Ram Singh S/o Kalyan Singh, Girola
40	,, Raghunandan Singh S/o Ayodhya Singh Thakur, Durg
41	,, Gajanand S/o Kanhaiyalal Sharma, Nandni Naka, Durg
42	,, Narad S/o Kaphudas, Achhoti
43	,, Narayan S/o Lalji Kashyap, Durg
44	,, Ramdas S/o Ayodhya Prasad, Ganj para, Durg
45	,, Motilal Bhagwandin, Durg
46	,, Deshbandhu Alias Anand S/o Thakurram, Durg
47	,, Pyarelal S/o Durgalal, Kapsi
48	,, Jhumaklal S/o Ganga Prasad Dube
49	,, Mangal Prasad S/o Parmanand Prasad, Durg
50	,, Hemraj S/o Kaliram, Mathpara, Durg
51	,, Govardhan S/o Jhadu, Swarnakar. Durg
52	Late Shri Shivlal S/o Mukundilal Devangan, Durg (Sohadrabai-wife)
53	Shri Lakhanlal S/o Sukra Prasad, Banod
54	,, Maulana Rafi Kaba Shekhui, Siya Goli Para, Durg. Now residing at Nagpur
55	,, Jahani S/o Shivragi Kurmi, Baigapara, Durg
56	,, Baratu, Durg
57	Late Shri Shitaladas S/o Maikulal, Ganj para, Durg, widow-Shantibai Sahu
58	Shri Pandurang S/o Tukaram, Camp No. 2. Bhilai (Transferred from Nagpur with effect from dt. 26-11-42)
59	,, Jagdish Prasad S/o Ramji, Bhilai, Boriya
60	,, Papaiya S/o Ramaiya Telgu, Bhilai, Boriya
61	Shrimati Anusuiyabai Mahavan, Dev Ganpatrao Mahavan, Sadar Bazar, Durg
62	Shri Lal Chandra S/o Hazarimal, Durg
63	,, Banshilal S/o Shudai Davangan, Brahmanpara, Durg
64	,, Phool Chand S/o Ramji, Durg
65	,, Vithaldas S/o Bhimji, Durg
66	Late Shri Pandu rang S/o Ramarao Songaonkar, Durg
67	Shri Dau Dhal Singh, Durg
68	,, Sudhakar Jha S/o Ratnakar Jha, Durg
69	,, Govardhanlal Swarnakar, Durg
70	Late Shri Ramprasad Deshmukh S/o Gajaraj Singh, Durg

1	2	3

DURG

71 Shri Rikhiram S/o Jagdev, Durg
72 ,, Munnulal S/o Shivlal, Durg
73 ,, Pyaralal Ayodhya Prasad, Durg
74 Late Shri Ram Chandra S/o Anant Ram, Durg (Son Barelal)
75 Shri Roop Chand S/o Udailal, Durg
76 ,, Latel S/o Sukalu, Durg
77 Late Shri Lakshmanrao S/o Madhorao, Durg (Wife Kalindrabai)
78 Shri Sukalu S/o Chandu, Durg
79 Shri Chaitram S/o Premnath, Santarawadi Durg
80 ,, Chandi Prasad S/o Vishvanath, Durg
81 Late Shri Gendalal S/o Dinadayal, Durg (widow: Hemkunwar) Transferred to Nagpur Jail from 6-8-42
82 Shri Dinbandhu S/o Mahsharam, Urla
83 ,, Ramnath S/o Chainunath Gaudas, Durg
84 ,, Budhram S/o Sonuram, Kuthrel
85 ,, Mohanlal S/o Premsukh Bakliwal, Durg
86 ,, Narmada Prasad Mishra S/o Shambhulal, Durg
87 Late Shri Gulab Chand S/o Chaithmal, Durg
88 Shri Hemram S/o Bisram, Mathpara, Durg
89 ,, Sukh Nandan S/o Manohar Prasad, Durg
90 ,, Thakurram S/o Nareha, Durg
91 Late Shri Narmada Prasad Mishra S/o Shambhulal (widow-Durgabai)
92 Shri Kisan Lal S/o Bhagwanidin, Durg
93 ,, Yashwant Singh S/o Kuber Singh, Ganj para, Durg
94 ,, Sunderlal S/o Ghasiram, Anda
95 ,, Chintaram S/o Sant Hisadiya, Durg
96 ,, Makhanlal S/o Shri Ram, Tirga, Durg
97 ,, I. M. Sapre S/o Madho Prasad Sapre, Durg
98 ,, Dilawar S/o Sonyas, Ghupasidih, Durg
99 ,, Vishnu Prasad S/o Jivanlal, Sirsakala
100 ,, Jivanlal S/o Bharat, Sirsakala
101 Smt. Kamlabai, Widow-Lakhanlal Kurmi, Durg
102 Shri Hiralal S/o Amir Chandra, Bhilai Nagar
103 ,, Gajadhar Singh S/o Dinanah Nayak Bhilai Nagar, Durg
104 ,, Govind ram Bhar khande, Durg
105 ,, Rameshwar S/o Khuman, Durg
106 Smt. Lilabai, widow Jivanlal Sharma
107 Shri Khubiram S/o Rameshwar Prasad Kashyap, Durg (Baiga para, Durg)
108 ,, Kamal Singh S/o Shivprasad (Ramsagarpara), Raipur

1	2
DURG	
109	,, Sachchidanand, Baldeo Prasad, Durg
110	Shri Nathuram S/o Jaganath Singh, Karlaroad Amrat nagar Andheri Bombay 69
111	,, Bhaiyalal S/o Kunj Bihari, Durg
112	,, Ramadhar, S/o Shiv Prasad, Durg
113	,, Nathuram S/o Jagannath, Ganj para, Durg
114	,, Modki S/o Indu, Golipara, Durg
115	Late Shri Gokul S/o Gambhir Prasad, Amapara, Durg
116	Shri Jugal Kishore S/o Sundarlal, Durg
117	,, Gopi S/o Nahri, Durg
118	,, Phandu S/o Pulku, Durg
119	,, Ganpat Ram Chandra Tarke, Durg (Now residing at Durg)
120	,, Sukhdev raj S/o Gandamal, Durg Lahore Miyanwali Jail as per has oath (Note. Jail certificate has not been produced name inchuded under Halaf Nama)
121	,, Chandrika Prasad S/o Shobharam, Naini (Allahabad Jail) Now residing at Durg
122	Dr. Jagdish Chandra, S/o Ramsevak Mishra
123	Shri Gaya prasad S/o Nand Kishore Chaturvedi
124	,, Sundarlal S/o Banaram, Durg
125	,, Kanhaiyalal S/o Ramswaroop Teli, Nagpur
126	,, Kejuram S/o Chamru Prasad Chandrakar
PATAN	
127	Shri Dorilal S/o Anup Singh Baghel, Selud
128	,, Jivdhan Prasad S/o Chamru Prasad, Selud
129	,, Gangaram S/o Gandhi Batang, Jamgaon
130	,, Udairam S/o Chatur Singh Batang, Jamgaon
131	,, Shiv Charan S/o Umrao Prasad, Patan
132	Smt. Jiwanwati widow Sukharam, Selud
133	Shri Narain das S/o Kaushalyadas, Patan, (Son, Bajrangdas)
134	,, Lakhanlal S/o Madho, Patan
135	,, Ram Narayandas S/o Umrao-Son Patan
136	,, Ayodhya Pd. S/o Ramchandra Kushap, Akbara
DURG	
137	Smt Ramvati Bai widow, Ramlal, Sailud
138	Shri Ghana ram S/o Khemu, Mokhali
139	,, Sukhru Ram S/o Nijam Singh, Patan.

1	2
DURG	
140	,, P.C. Kumar C/o Ajai Kumar Store Khursipar, Bhilai
141	,, Udairam S/o Sagun, Batang
142	,, Chheidilal S/o Dwarka Prasad, Devada
143	,, Ramdayal S/o Parmanath, Santara
PATAN	
144	Shri Nand Singh, Santara
145	,, Pusudas S/o Nankudas (*Su. pra*)
146	,, Acharya Ram Dev S/o Tainudas, (*Su. Pra*) Patan
147	,, Chetan Prasad Tripathi S/o Dayaram, Santara
148	,, Motilal S/o Hiradhar, Batang
149	,, Tularam S/o Sukh Deb Prasad, Dangania
150	,, Chhannulal S/o Motilal, Sailud
151	Late Shri Kanhaiyalal S/o Mudkar, Son-Narhar S/o Kanhaiya
152	Shri Sakharam S/o Ramnath, Selud
153	,, Kejuram S/o Lakshman, Devada
154	,, Beniram S/o Rajaram, Devada
155	,, Chhatar Singh, S/o Nahara, Sankara,
156	,, Banshilal S/o Bhangilal, Bodal
157	,, Khilavan S/o Khemlal, Batang
158	,, Ghasiya S/o Loknath, Batang
159	,, Ghanaram S/o Ganiram, Sankara
160	,, Dindayal S/o Sadhuram, Sankara
161	Shri Shobharam, Bhagirathi, Sankara
162	,, Rameshar S/o Khuman, Devangan
163	,, Lakhan S/o Gungu, Devada
164	,, Kamlabai, widow Lakhan
165	,, Chungu S/o Baldev, Devada
166	,, Nandlal S/o Bhangiram. Devada
167	,, Asava S/o Arjun, Devada
168	,, Jagdish prasad S/o Ramratan, Pahanda
169	,, Amaradas S/o Dayaldas, Khamariya
170	,, Bhangiram S/o Mune shawer, Khorpa
171	,, Umarao S/o Bishnath, Patan
172	,, Parmanand S/o Kapilnath, Akhara
173	,, Sakharam S/o Ramnath, Sailud
174	,, Ramlal S/o Balaram, Sailud
175	,, Govind, Patan
176	,, Amoli S/o Sarang

1	2
PATAN	
177	„ Pusudas S/o Mangulu, Khurapa
178	„ Jagmohan Singh S/o Biran teli, Bhilai
179	„ Shiv dayal S/o Sadhu, Sankara
180	„ Ramlal S/o Chungu, Devada
181	„ Tularam S/o Sukhdev Prasad, Patan
182	Smt. Urmilabai widow Chintaram, Sankara
183	Shri Ramdhin S/o Judavan prasad, Dube, Devala
184	„ Udairam S/o Jailal, Sarang
185	„ Himmatram S/o Bhangiram, Khorpa
186	„ Madhu mangal prasad Sawarji S/o Jivdhan Prasad, Patan
187	„ Ramkhilawan S/o Manoharlal, Sikola
188	„ Dhaniram S/o Hiralal, Khorpa
189	„ Sunderlal S/o Jairam Saurem
190	„ Ramkhilavan Dube, S/o Shobharam, Dewada (wife Kaushalyabai widow of Ram Khilavan Dube)
191	„ Shivram Singh S/o Dular Singh, Devada (wife Rukhamin bai widow of Shiwaram Singh)
192	„ Daulat S/o Maniran Sahu, Devada
193	Shri Gokul Prasad S/o Gambhir prasad Dubey, Nandini mines, Durg,
194	„ Mangali prasad S/o Ujiyar prasad Sarnakat, Dhamda
195	„ Bisal S/o Ujiyar prasad, Dhamda
196	„ Krishanlal Vishnu prasad Dani,Dhamda
197	„ Sudamarao S/o Sad Bhedi Rao Tamaskar, Akoli
198	„ Shankar S/o Pralahad Pande, Akoli
199	„ Ramlal S/o Ram Singh, Dhamda
200	„ Kaijuram S/o Mannulal Dube, Sirsa, Bhilai
201	„ Lakshman prasad S/o Anantram Tiwari
202	„ Asharam Pathak, Tahiwara
203	„ Somnath S/o Arjun, Dhamda
204	„ Lakshman, Dhamda
205	„ Fatte S/o Lalluram
206	„ Kunjlal S/o Parasram Upadhyay
207	„ Govind S/o Manrakhan Viroda
208	„ Vishnu Prashad S/o Jiwanlal, Sirshakala
209	„ Shyamlal S/o Sunderlal, Girola
210	„ Gendlal S/o Dindayal, Dhamdha
GUNDERDEHI	
211	Shri Kejuram S/o Chamruram, Gaurkapara

1	2
GUNDERDEHI	
212	„ Gendlal S/o Ishrao Deshlahra, Gunderdehi
213	„ Umedsingh S/o Jamoliram Tiwari, Bhardakala
214	„ Shital prasad S/o Rameshwar Pd, Dagania
215	„ Sukhiram S/o Rameshwar Pd, Sagnira
216	„ Ghasiram S/o Bishram, Matia
217	„ Phirtoo S/o Dular, Matia
218	„ Sudarshan S/o Tularam, Rangakathera
219	„ Chainuram S/o Keshar Singh Chaurel
220	„ Indermal Sunderlal, Mokha
221	„ Gajanand S/o Kanhaiyalal, Botebaud
222	„ Dayaram S/o Govind Singh, Parsoda
223	„ Dashrathdas S/o Mangela, Kachandur
224	„ Chetanlal Bishewar
BALOD	
225	Shri Bhara Singh Kelha, Kusumkasa
226	„ Sujan Singh S/o Dariao Singh, Kaudikasa
227	„ Indalram S/o Amruram, Kaudi kasa
228	Shri Asharam S/o Mahangu Gond, Nawapara
229	Late Shri Sarju Prasad S/o Biharilal Agarwal
230	Shri Premlal S/o Ram Ratan Trivedi, Chikhlakasa
231	„ Bhondu S/o Bodru Gond, Malkasha
232	„ Videshi Singh S/o Ranjit Singh, Amadula
233	„ Sunder Singh S/o Deosingh, Amlidih
234	„ Inder Singh S/o Deo Singh, Kurmitola, wife Laxmi Bai
235	„ Dayaram, Kushumkasha
236	„ Anjoti S/o Sundersingh, Kunjkanhar
237	„ Sarju S/o Sanwant, Targaon
238	„ Agar Singh S/o Durjan, Balod
239	„ Bishahu S/o Jhagaru, Balod
240	„ Pitambar S/o Chaitu, Balod
241	„ Bhagawan, Malegondi
242	„ Dular Singh S/o Dolan, Turregal
243	„ Nalo S/o Phorup, Turregal
244	„ Mariyar S/o Jhalema, Turregal
245	„ Bhagwani S/o Ramu, Balod
246	„ Bainder S/o Sikandar, Balod
247	„ Shivlal S/o Paltu, Balod
248	„ Sunder Singh

1	2
BALOD BLOCK	
249	„ Kalaram S/o Kutau, Jajra
250	, Paranto S/o Jalandhar, Pathra
251	„ Jethuram S/o Gahiru, Parasghat
252	„ Samodi S/o Mayaram, Parasghat
253	„ Narsingh, Parasghat
254	„ Gulabsingh S/o Ranjan Singh, Kodekasha
255	„ Kshirpal Singh S/o Bharatsingh, Pachpedi
256	„ Kalaram S/o Karti, Gujra
257	„ Jethulall S/o Dhaunnlal, Balod
258	Late Shri Laxman Singh S/o Ramprasad
259	„ Para S/o Mehar, Kushumtola
260	„ Mansingh S/o Anjori, Latabod
261	„ Budhiyai Gahru, Dukehra
262	„ Gokul S/o Kanhai, Bistola
263	„ Sadguna S/o Dukhuwa, Thekapar
264	„ Sukhdeo S/o Sukharam, Balod
265	Shri R. S. Shesh S/o Shankar Rao, Balod
266	„ Thakur Ram S/o Laxman, Adjal
267	„ Muhrasingh S/o Baisakhu, Kodekasha
268	„ Shahdeo S/o Keju, Pathratola
269	„ Bhukhau ram S/o Sundersingh, Kodekasha
270	„ Shersingh S/o Mansingh, Gennarbhata
271	„ Jagturam S/o Teeju, Gumanpur
272	„ Purushottam S/o Sukhlal, Khallari
273	„ Dinanath S/o Keshavram, Kushumkasha
274	„ Pundi S/o Anjor Singh, Padgondi
275	„ Rameshwar Pd. S/o Kanglu, Kapa
276	„ Babulal S/o Samaru, Tirkapara
277	„ Mehar S/o Baldeo, Matia
278	„ Chaindas S/o Thukeldas, Aadejhar
279	„ Mahangu S/o Dhiraji, Balod
280	„ Shri Govinddas S/o Mohandas, Balod
281	„ Chamara Singh S/o Ramchandra, Balod
282	„ Gokul S/o Baishakhu, Balod
283	Smt. Dulari Bai - Widow Jhaduram, Balod
284	Shri Dayaram S/o Indarsingh, Kurmitola
285	„ Kanhai S/o Paklu, Gudum
286	„ Fatte S/o Khola Halba, Gudum
287	„ Jagat S/o Chainu Halba, Golitola

1	2

BALOD BLOCK

288 Late Shri Ramprasad S/o Jagannath, Kushumtola, son-Dahaku
289 „ Durjan S/o Mangal Teli, Markatola
290 Late Shri Ram Dalal S/o Chainsingh, Kushumtola S/o Dayaram
291 „ Prem Singh S/o Dashru, Kushumtola, Son-Kamalsingh
292 „ Baldu S/o Mayaram, Kushumtola, Son-Asharam

MANPUR BLOCK

293 Shri Samodhiram S/o Mayaram, Parasghat
294 „ Shri Saganuram S/o Singa, Patgondi
295 „ Deoram S/o Meharsingh, Umargondi
296 Shri Firturam S/o Sohan, Telitola
297 „ Sadhura S/o Dhanwa, Kenwattola
298 „ Fattesingh S/o Pandit, Mohbhatta
299 „ Mahajan S/o Chherku, Moretola
300 „ Gambhir S/o Durbari, Marartola
301 „ Jhaduram S/o Ganjaha, Kanwar, Marartola
302 „ Kanwal Singh S/o Dharmu Marar
303 Late Shri Chinturam S/o Maniram Halba, Kumhari
304 Shri Ghasia S/o Alorsingh, Padgondi
305 Late Shri Rajusingh S/o Alorsingh, Padgondi, Son-Fakirsingh,
306 Shri Rahitdas S/o Karia, Marartola
307 „ Shahdeo S/o Karia, Marartola
308 „ Maharu S/o Tularam-dependant-Son Shri Ramchandra, Bhundadih
309 „ Mehrusingh S/o Alal Gond, dependant-Son Madhur Singh Putargondi Khurd
310 „ Ramsahai S/o Khuman Gond, Muraitola
311 „ Jangaliram S/o Bhagoliram, Marartola
312 „ Sagram S/o Maso Gond (Dependant son Hiraderam), Padgondi
313 „ Indersingh S/o Phagu, Ghashitola
314 „ Sadasingh Gond S/o Ramu (Dependant Nijamsingh-son), Kodmara
315 „ Thakel S/o Mansingh, Harda, S/o Hiralal (Pota or grandson), Kodmara
316 „ Harisingh S/o Alorsingh (Dependant-Lakshman-son), Godi
317 „ Surajbhan S/o Dularsingh Halba, dependant (Sahadev grandson or Pota), Dagai
318 Late Shri Umedi S/o Negi Gond dependant (son-Jaharsingh). Putargondi
319 Shri Jaggu S/o Meso (son-Shriram)
320 „ Thanwar, S/o Kariya Gond, Kakalpar
321 „ Dasharath S/o Pardeshi dependant (Raghuram-brother), Gotatola

1	2
MANPUR BLOCK	
322	Shri Aganuram S/o Dariyao, dependant (Davisingh-brother Porekheda)
323	,, Brijram, S/o Rupau Halba, dependant (Son Koduram), Ghavdetola
324	,, Mehru S/o Bhonda Gond, Bhoramtola
325	,, Jahru, S/o Chainsingh-Dependent Ramdas, Sambalpur
326	,, Sukharu, S/o Ramuram, Bitekar
327	Late Shri Dhaniram S/o Badhiyar Singh (Dependant Darbari) Gond, Magarghata
328	Shri Leduram S/o Mangalram, Gond (dependant Maso-wife), Tosegondi
329	,, Sukalu S/o Gujara Gond-dependant (Chatur-son), Dantewada
330	,, Dukhuram S/o Baratiya Gond, Kevatatola
331	Late Shri Gahru S/o Thanwar Halba, Gotatola, Son-Bhanwar Singh
332	Shri Suklal S/o Chainsingh Halba, Gotatola
333	,, Jethuram S/o Gahru, Parasghat
334	,, Lakshman Singh S/o Ganesh Singh, Kujamtola
335	,, Ghasiram S/o Mahagu Gond, Baki
336	,, Dukhuram S/o Pati, Limra
337	,, Shivlal S/o Balak Khalora
338	,, Anjorsingh S/o Ramprasad, Japkasa
339	,, Tijauram, Japkasa
340	,, Baldev Pardeshi, Iragaon
341	,, Murad, Iragaon
342	,, Ram Gulam S/o Parmu, Manpur
343	,, Kaliram, Manpur
344	,, Chandulal, Manpur
345	,, Adhin, Manpur
346	,, Sukalu S/o Jagat, Chenka
347	,, Keju S/o Ramcharan, Gotitola
348	,, Saganu S/o Sitaram, Patgondi
349	,, Jarhi S/o Margoli, Matartola
350	,, Narain S/o Jaga, Manjhipur
351	,, Gumansingh S/o Dular Singh, Manjhipur
352	Shri Parasram S/o Narain, Purput
353	Late Shri Ramchandra S/o Fattesingh, Gidhali
354	,, Ganesh S/o Cherki, Telitola,
355	,, Gangaram S/o Harderam, Rengakathera
356	,, Videram, S/o Bisru, Bharritola
357	,, Parasram S/o Mahajan, Didga
358	,, Samaru S/o Ramsingh Chhirha
359	,, Jailal S/o Budhram, Telang
360	,, Gahri S/o Puran, Dhodki
361	,, Bujlal S/o Ramlal, Rengakhar

1	2

MANPUR BLOCK

362	,, Nityanand, Birtanram, Amapara, Balod
363	,, Mohansingh S/o Dayal, Patalkandi
364	,, Dayaram (Son Patiram), Koreba

BLOCK CHOUKI

365	Shri Saradhuram S/o Tularam, Renga Kathera
366	,, Jhadhuram son of Salikram, Renga Kathera
367	,, Devprasad Arya Hariram, Hathra
368	,, Sundarsingh S/o Dubaru, Devarpur
369	,, Goili S/o Badi, Devarpur
370	,, Megalsingh S/o Barsingh, Devarpur
371	,, Chamru S/o Kesarsingh, Devarpur
372	,, Amoliram S/o Karu, Devarpur
373	,, Ghasia S/o Dularsingh, Devarpur
374	,, Budhram S/o Anandi, Devarpur
375	,, Ramadhuri S/o Thanuram, Chouki
376	,, Shobharam S/o Dhiraji Gond, Durgatola
377	,, Buddhu (Dependant Ghansiram Brother), Durgatola
378	,, Ankal Singh S/o Dhinu, Bharkundi
379	,, Gangaram C/o Thakurram, S/o Kilingasai, Bharkundi
380	Late Shri Amarsingh S/o Dhiraji Dependant (wife Cherakibai), Bharkundi
381	,, Mayaram S/o Kanhaiya, Gond
382	,, Dayaram S/o Bhadariya, Korba
383	,, Baldev S/o Bhairam, Sitakasa
384	Shri Madam S/o Dasaru
385	,, Jagaru S/o Mersingh
386	,, Phirtu S/o Guldev, Chouki
387	,, Bhajan, Maphitola
388	,, Janglu S/o Champu. Chowki
389	,, Rajaram S/o Mansingh, Telitola
390	,, Lilarsingh S/o Das, Ramutola
391	,, Chamru, Chowki
392	,, Anantsingh, S/o Udela, Bararmandi
393	,, Tukaram S/o Lalu, Konpar
394	,, Sadasingh S/o Shivraj, Medlitola
395	,, Mansai S/o Bhuruva, Medlitola
396	,, Kashiram S/o Dhansingh, Pursohipar
397	,, Hagaru S/o Arjun, Maharajtola
398	,, Govardhan S/o Baratiya, Maharajtola

1	2
BLOCK CHOUKI	
399	„ Sukhram S/o Sitaram, Tomagodi
400	„ Bisalsingh S/o Dularsingh, Bachhdi
401	„ Roopram S/o Dhaniram, Dalutola
402	„ Sonuram S/o Amarsingh, Kodekasa
403	„ Parsottam, Suklal, Khalari
404	Late Shri Bhangiram S/o Bhuneshwar, Dhadhutola
GURUR BLOCK	
405	Shri Samaru, S/o Chamru, Gatatola
406	„ Ramprasad, S/o Bisali, Gotatola
407	„ Chunni S/o Firtu
408	„ Durguram S/o Shaknur Gond, Parsuli
409	„ Bhandari Prasad S/o Mankar (dependant Shivlal)
410	Late Shri Milapteli son Bhagbali, Sangli
411	„ Bahoran S/o Saheni, Gond, Gotatola
412	Late Shri Gokulram S/o Pancham Halba, Gotatola
413	„ Birjhuram S/o Rupau, Halba
414	„ Hemnath S/o Rupu, Halba
415	„ Shriram S/o Bodhi, Kosagondi
416	Shri Sahru S/o Raiman, Gotipar
417	„ Ramcharan S/o Dulruva, Nipani
418	„ Mansaram S/o Tangu, Nipani
419	„ Girdharilal S/o Rambharosa
420	„ Dayaldas S/o Gulardas
421	„ Loknath S/o Parsu
422	„ Udho S/o Ghano
423	„ Ramdayal S/o Mohan
424	„ Govind S/o Dhanva
425	„ Ramji S/o Gokul, Gotatola
426	„ Birjhuram S/o Kariya Rawat, Gotatola
DONDILOHARA BLOCK	
427	Late Shri Ramprasad S/o Gajrajsingh
428	„ Budhram S/o Ramagode, Salhegahan
429	„ Kalaram S/o Sukaluram Gond, Dependant (Hirderam Gond son), Salhegahan
430	„ Dhaniram S/o Sukdeo Gond, Salhegahan

1	2

GURUR BLOCK

431 Late Shri Shakur Mohammad S/o Valimohammad, Dondilohara-wife Jahurbi
432 „ Prabhuram S/o Chherku, Dongar
433 „ Dayaram S/o Ramchandra, Lohara
434 „ Thukel S/o Anjorsingh
435 „ Harchand S/o Sukdev, Anditola
436 „ Vaidya, Sambalpur
437 „ Budhram S/o Narsingh, Dhangaon
438 „ Mangal, Dhangaon
439 „ Murha S/o Baisakhu, Uaitha
440 „ Jaiyapat S/o Mayaram, Pathari
441 „ Birsingh S/o Mansingh, Shikaritola
442 „ Anjorsingh S/o Gangaram, Jhitia
443 „ Chaitu S/o Narayan, Bhanjgaon
444 „ Mohan S/o Ghasi Gond, Pangari
445 „ *Poonamchand S/o Samanlal, Bundeli*
446 „ Shobhit S/o Dularu Kalar, Kotera
447 „ Ramdayal S/o Sadaram Soni, Kotera
448 „ Shri Bharat S/o Shersingh Halba, Kotera
449 „ Latel S/o Angadram, Kotera

DONDILOHARA BLOCK

450 Shri Krishna S/o Rajaram, Kotera
451 „ Ramu S/o Anjori Kumhar, Bhendi
452 „ Fhirtu S/o Soni, Kotera
453 „ Ganesh S/o Aaskaran, Halba
454 „ Ramdayal S/o Bhagvani, Halba, Bhendi
455 „ Rohitdas S/o Ganpat Halba, Bhendi
456 „ Bishahu S/o Bakharu, Halba
457 „ Basherik, Bhendi

BERLA BLOCK

458 Shri Raruha S/o Derha, Vasa
459 „ Sakharam S/o Manohar, Bharchaki
460 „ Sunhar S/o Vanda, Kumhi
461 „ Ramswaroop S/o Rajan Ghursena
462 „ Suklal Prasad S/o Chunagu Prasad, Silghat
463 „ Kraparam S/o Dina Kushmi
464 Late Shri Jhaduram S/o Rambharosa, Bhimauri, Widow Sevatibai
465 „ Bhagirathi S/o Pila Prasad, Khamariya

1	2
BERLA BLOCK	
466	Shri Mansharam S/o Lalluram, Keshadabari
467	„ Nathuram S/o Gajarajsingh, Silghat
468	„ Lakshamidatt S/o Raghunath, Bachedi
BEMETARA BLOCK	
469	Shri Manjan S/o Sukhu
470	„ Lakshman S/o Tikaram Dadhi
471	„ Dayashankar Tiwari S/o Ganesh prasad
472	„ Jhoolaram S/o Sitaram, Bemetara
473	„ Ramdas S/o Chaindas, Bikari
474	„ Madhukarsingh Verma S/o Premsingh, Sandi
475	Late Shri Maluram S/o Dindayal, Dadhi(Smt. Khediyabai Widow Malluram Savegi)
476	Shri Jaithumal S/o Khuraji, Bilai
477	Shri Dayaram
478	„ Dhanwar S/o Dhaniya, Baijalpara
479	„ Budharam S/o Dina, Bemetara
480	„ Mukutaram S/o Narain, Bemetara
481	„ Khambanlal S/o Goverdhan, Bemetara
482	„ Padum S/o Pach Koud, Baijalpara
483	„ Kaliram S/o Sadashiv, Baijalpara
484	„ Lalva S/o Shivram, Bemetara
485	„ Shankar Madhorao, Bemetara
486	„ Shankar Pandey S/o Premlal
487	„ Udaisingh S/o Dhanaram Singh, Bemetara
488	„ Pranlal S/o Ramratan lal, Bemetara
489	„ Lakshman Prasad S/o Ramlal, Dadhi
490	„ Avadhram S/o Kamlaram, Bemetara
491	„ Nammu S/o Sukhiram, Nagpura
492	„ Lalluram S/o Anand Singh, Sitmor
493	„ Gangadhar Yadavrao, Tamaskar
SAJA BLOCK	
494	„ Konda S/o Sunder, Devakar
495	„ Chandulal S/o Gangaram, Devkar
496	Late Shri Jhagaru S/o Salik Devangan
497	Late Shri Puru Yudu S/o Jhagaru Devangan
498	„ Budhram S/o Ganesh, Hathmudi
499	„ Nanhu S/o Gaumi—Hardas

1	2
SAJA BLOCK	
500	„ Bhagvat Prasad S/o Gopal Prasad. Geithata
501	„ Narsingh Prasad Agarwal S/o Rajaram, Devakarsaja
502	Late Shri Devantin W/o Bhoi, Devkar
RAJNANDGAON BLOCK	
503	Shri Budhram Sahu S/o Manuram Sahu Motipur
504	„ Thakur Lotan Singh S/o Vishvanath Singh, Rajnandgaon
505	„ Kahnaiyalal S/o Chhotumal Agarwal, Rajnandgaon
506	„ Rajulal Sharma S/o Muga Bisauha, Rajnandgaon
507	„ Dayaram Yadav S/o Govardhah Prasad Yadav, Rajnandgoon
508	„ Eknath Marotirao S/o Marotirao, Rajnandgaon
509	„ Ramadhar S/o Kaval Sonar, Rajnandgaon
510	„ Fatthu S/o Shravan, Golbazar (S/o Ramsingh)
511	„ Vali (alias) Chandrabhan (S/o Ram Singh), Rajnandgaon
512	„ D. G. Wadiya Arima, Parsi, Rajnandgaon
513	„ Kunjbiharilal S/o Chatur Singh, Rajnandgaon
514	„ Kasturchand Tejpal, Rajnandgaon
515	Shri Hanrath Gopal Prasad Chaturvedi, Raj.
516	„ Raghu Nandan Ramnath, Rajnandgaon
517	„ Jagatu Budhram, Rajnandgaon
518	„ Banwali mal Baghmal, Rajnandgaon
519	Shrimati Naine wife Ramlal, Rajnandgaon
520	„ Bulli wife Puran, Rajnandgaon
521	Shri Prabhuram S/o Ramlal, Rajnandgaon
522	„ Chintaram S/o Buddhu Prasad Pateva, Rajnandgaon
523	„ Gulabdas Radharamandas, Bhathagaon
524	„ Dasharathlal Chhabiram, Rajanandgaon
525	„ Damodar Prasad Ramgulam Tripathi
526	„ Gangadhar Vasudevrao, Rajnandgaon
527	„ Bisram Maheshdas, Charbhatha
528	„ Champalal Amolchand Parakh, M.G. Road, Raipur
529	„ Bakharu S/o Mantri Sahu, Revadiha, Rajnandgaon
530	„ Vishesar Prasad Yadava S/o Govardhan, Chhuriya
531	„ Vidya Prasad Yadava S/o Shankar Yadav, Ghoghare
532	„ Abdul Rehman, Dake, Gotatola
533	„ Beniprasad Ramprasad. Gopalpur
534	„ Damodardas S/o Anantlal tavari, Dongargaon
535	„ Tahir Ali S/o Hussain Ali, Dongargaon

1	2

KHAIRAGARH BLOCK

536	Shri Ghanshyam lodhi S/o Latel Lodhi, Shandi
537	,, Poonam Chand Shankhla S/o Chmanlal, Shandi
538	,, Nathulal Barai S/o Guliram, Victoria—building, Mohan nagar, Nagpur (Maharashtra)
539	,, Siyaram S/o Sakharam Potdar ,Bagh Bahra, Distt. Raipur

CHHUI KHADAN

540	Shri Amratlal S/o Buddhuram Mahobia, Chhuikhadan
541	,, Babulal Chaube Mulchand, Chhuikhadan
542	,, Malau Bholanath Mahobiya, Chhuikhadan
543	,, Jhaduram S/o Ram Sahai Mahobiya, Chhuikhadan
544	,, Samaruram S/o Holiram, Chhuikhadan
545	,, Ramagulam Patdar S/o Ripusudan, Chhuikhadan
546	,, Govardhanram S/o Ripusudan Varma, Chhuikhadan
547	,, Budhram S/o Ramdayal Paddar
548	,, Damodarlal Shivcharan
549	,, Padmakar Prasad Tripathi S/o Ramratan Tripathi
550	,, Dayaram S/o Govardhanram, Chhuikhadan
551	,, Lakshmichand Hiralal, Chhuikhadan

DONGARGARH BLOCK

552	Shri Suklal S/o Gorenlodhi, Rautala
553	,, P. B. Das S/o Anand Charandas, Dongargarh

SAHASPUR-LOHARA BLOCK

554	Smt. Anusaiya bai widow Keshavlal Gomasta, Lohara
555	Shri Banwarilal S/o Badriprasad, Kerasiya, Kawardha (Note:—He belongs to Maharastra now residing in Kawardha)
556	Smt. Shyambai widow Janaklal, Bhangchuva
557	Shri Pachkoud Prasad Tiwari, Khapri, Kawardha

(Note:—Jail certificate not produced only thename entered in the list on the basis of halafnama)

BODLA BLOCK

558	Shri Mukundi S/o Sukhiram Kurmi, Paraswara

1	2

RAJNANDGAON BLOCK

559 Shri Damu S/o Bada,
560 Late Shri Raineshwar Prasad S/o Umrao Teli

DHAMDA BLOCK

561 Shri Beni Prasad S/o Pyrelal Dube

DURG BLOCK

562 Late Shri Shankarlal S/o Bisahuram Shrivashva)
Son Shri Manrakhanlal Shrivastav)

NAWAGARH BLOCK

563 Shri Dwarka Prasad Mishra S/o Gayalal Mishra

CHHUIKHADAN BLOCK

564 Late Shri Nandalal Soni

BALOD BLOCK

565 Shri Ramlal Chaitu, Kusumtola
566 Shri Premsingh Daharu, Kusumtola
567 Shri Baldu Mayaram, Kusumtola
568 Shri Ram Prasad, S/o Jagannath Kusumtola
569 Shri Durjan S/o Mangal, Markatola

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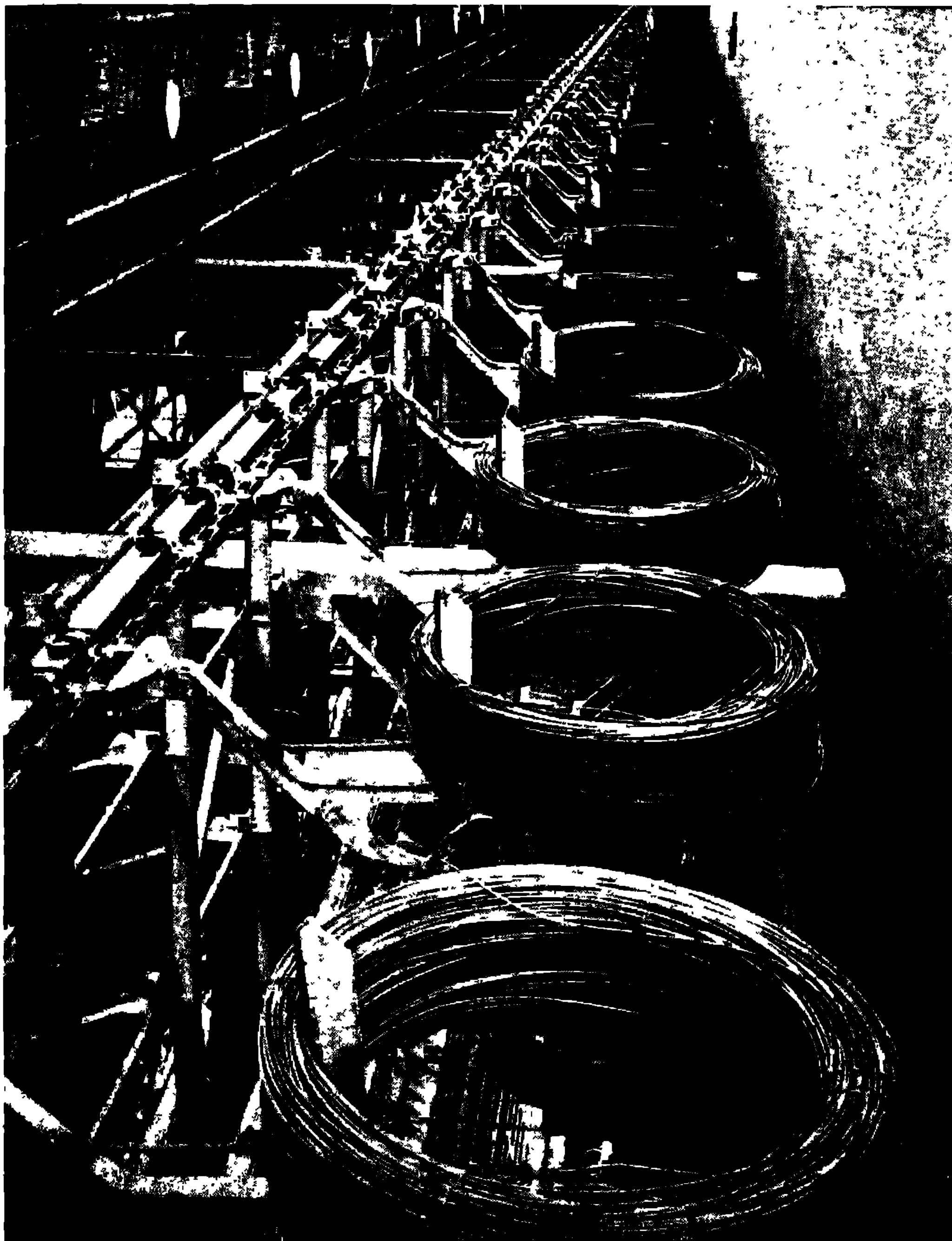
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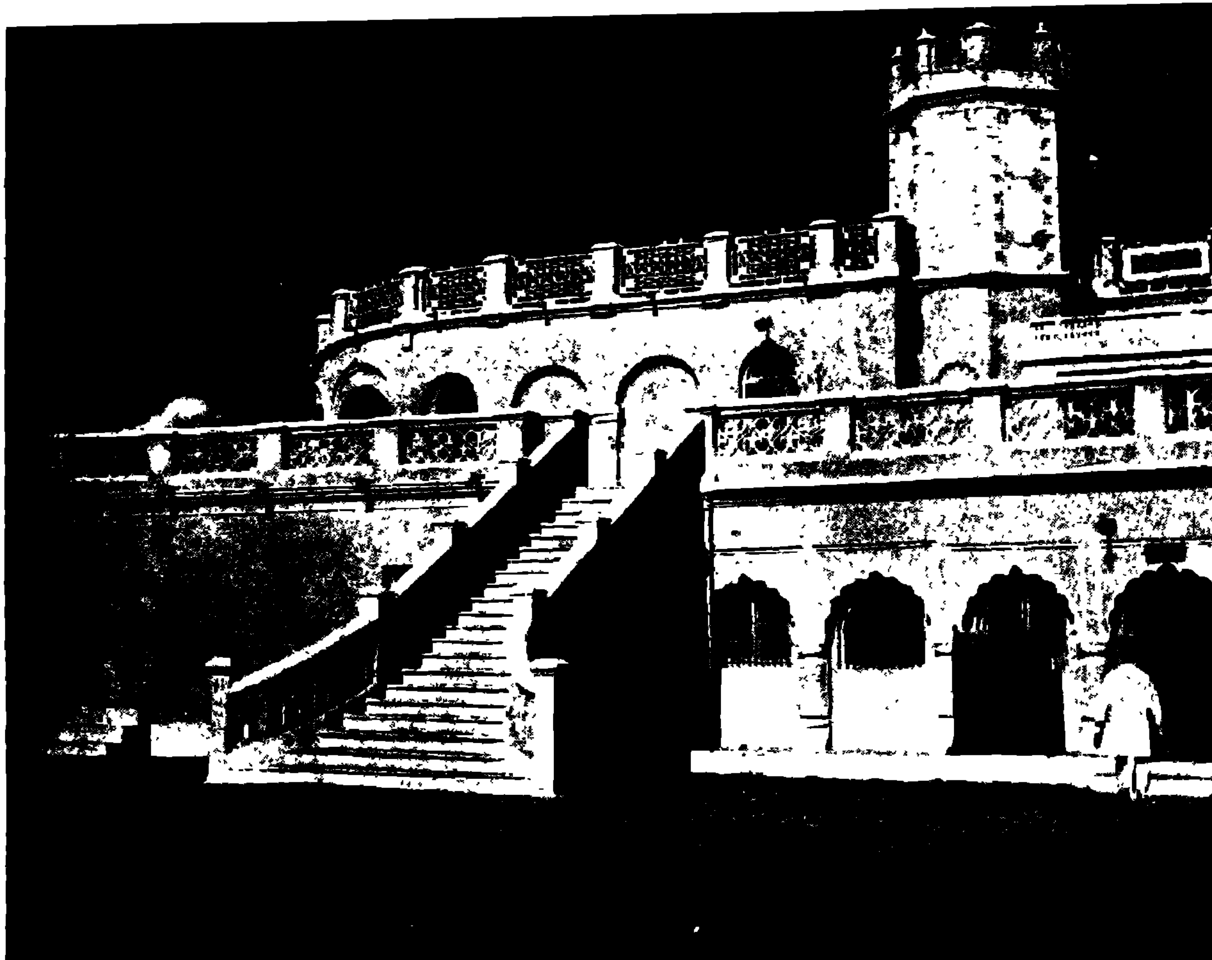


Mandri dance of the Gonds (Courtesy Tribal Welfare Deptt.)





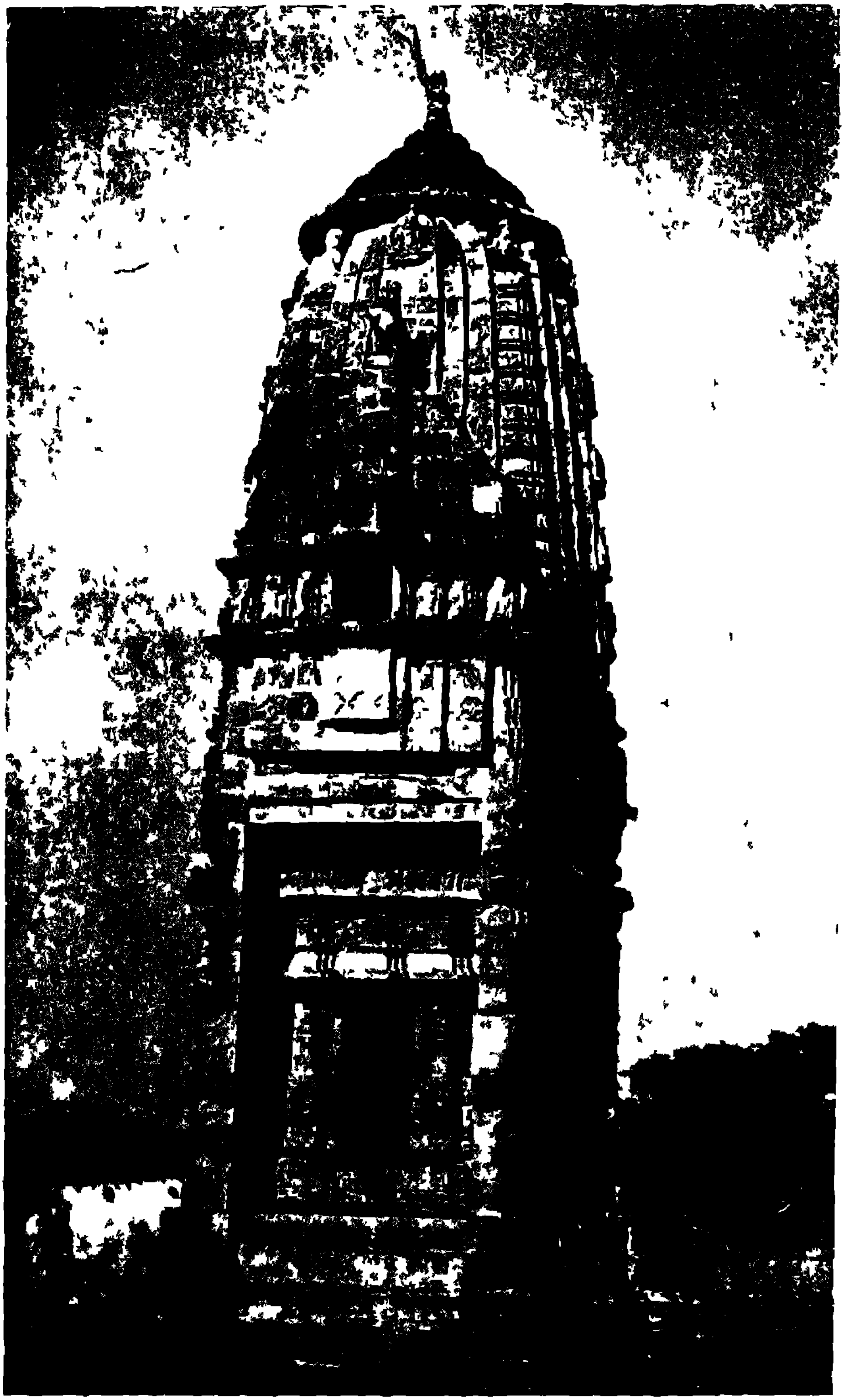




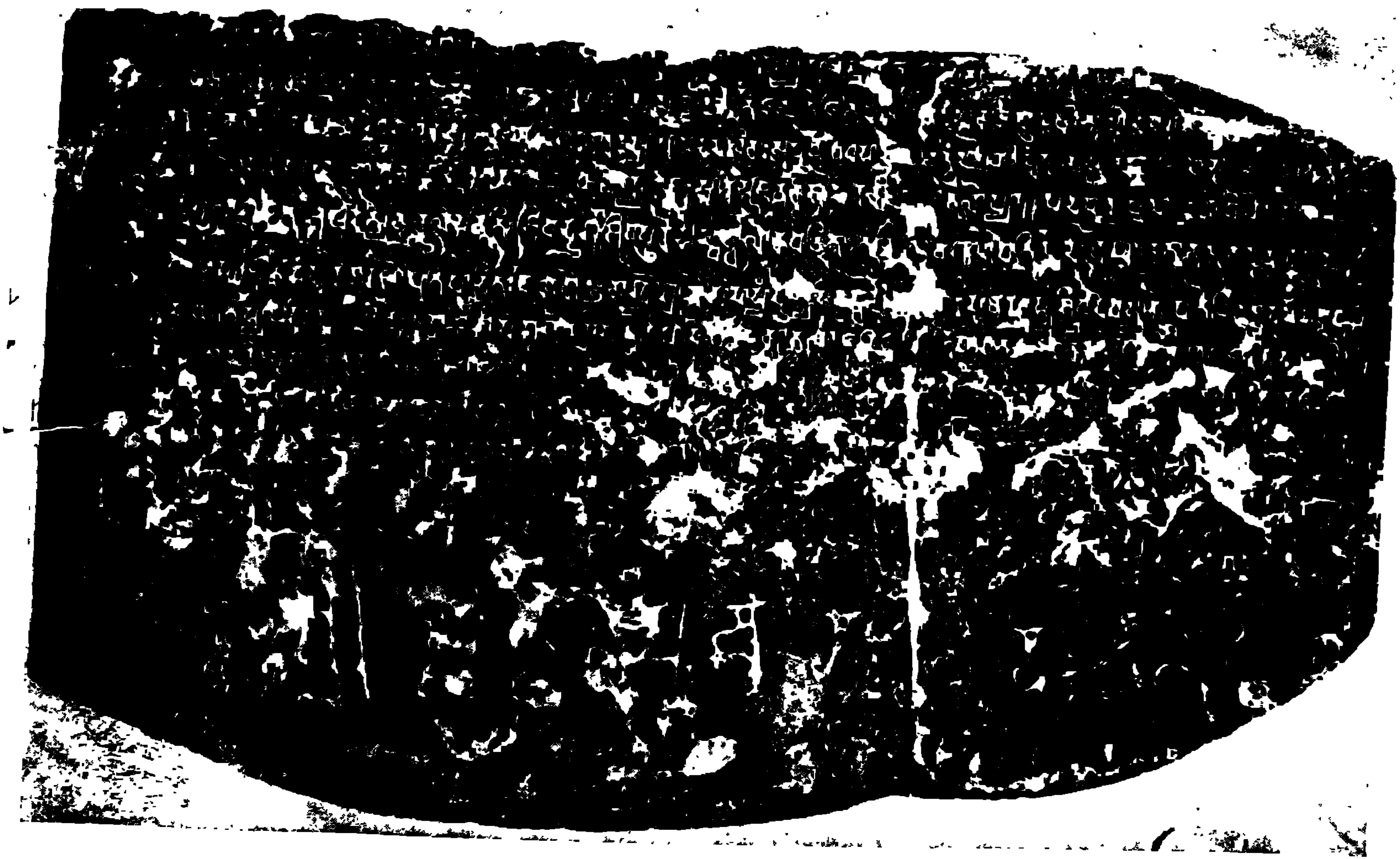
Indira Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya (by Courtesy)



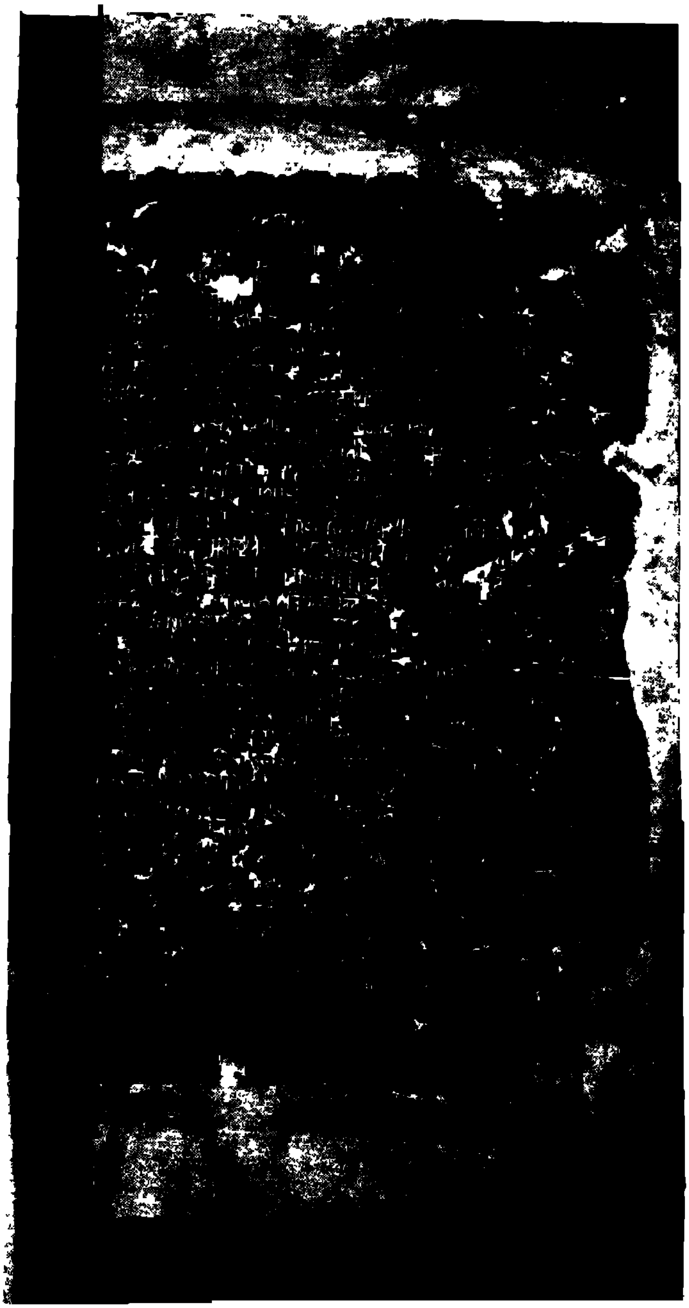
Vishnu (Boramdeo) Temple of Chhapri near Kawardha (11th or 12th century A. D.)



Gandu Mahadeva Temple



Durg Stone Inscription of Shivadeva (8th century A. D.)



ERRATA

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
			CHAPTER I	
1	1	6	87 57	81°57'
1	2	12	lashing with	coelescing with
2	2	9	Ambagarh-Chuki	Ambagarh-Chowki
6	2	12	Ox-low lakes	ox-bow lakes
7	—	3	Chanki	Chowki
7	2	3	*cafluence*	*confluence*
7	2	11	at	on
7	2	18	hervest	harvest
8	3	5	Resevoir	Reservoir
8	3	6	tviangalar	triangular
12	2	9	vortical	vertical
13	3	1	shall	shale
15	2	1	occurences	occurrences
18	2	2	(89 45')	(80°45')
19	5	1	Districts	District
19	5	2	porches	patches
21	4	16	speciles	species
22	2	5	black	block
22	2	10	*bomboo*	*bamboo*
23	2	4	collacted	collected
23	1	1	represnted	represented
24	5	3	flovers	flowers
24	—	4	bororing	bordering
25	1	3	fooder	fodder
25	1	13	It found on	It is found on
25	1	33	a while *Bendra puchhia*	a white *Bendra puchhia*
26	—	1	muisance	nuisance
27	—	4	tooth-ach	tooth-ache
27	2	7	arificially	artificially
28	1	14	fllower	flower
28	3	5	*systamatic*	*systematic*
28	3	4	Khairgarh	Khairagarh
29	3	6	Chawki	Chowki

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
29	3	7	Khajji	Khujji
29	5	2	not laid	not laid on
31	4	1	numbaer	number
31	4	2	Cándrapur	Chandrápur
32	2	3	peafowal	pea-fowl
32	4	1	mangoose	mongoose
32	7	4	togather	together
34	2	5	intresting	interesting
34	9	3	snmbhar	sambhar
35	3	8	occasinally	occasionally
36	—	2	gree-winged	green-winged
36	6	1	carnivourous	carnivorous
36	6	1	fihes	fishes
38	7	5	shallw	shallow
39	2	4	moths	months
39	3	5	flows	follows
39	8	6	Septemeer	September

CHAPTER II—DURG

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
42	1	4	Inquirg	Inquiry
44	Footnote 1	2	Roodrekha	Rooprekha
45	Footnote 3	1	Sociey	Society
50	5	6	Ramadeva	Karnadeva
51	5	8	Cedi	Chedi
54	2	2	A.C.	A.D.
61	@	3	The Jenkins	R. Jenkins
69	5	2	Forning	Forming
-do-	-do-	6	Vrior	Union
-do-	Footnote 2	—	Indian	Indian
70	1	7	Stats	States

CHAPTER III

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
81	3	3	be	delete
101	2	10	Catagories	Categories

CHAPTER IV

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
112	2	15	Subsists	subsists in
113	1	7	Das abadner of ore	Dashahara and

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
			CHAPTER V	
165	1	11	were	were retained as
167	3	4	in behalf	on behalf
167	3	14	estimated reserves	reserves
			CHAPTER VI	
210	2	9	given in the	given
210	3	1	seth (.)	seth (,)
210	4	5	*Kochvas*	*Kochyas*
215	3	5	1934 (.)	1935 (,)
223	—	3	(1959).	(1959),
224	1	5	The District Centre Co-operative	The District Central Co-operative Bank
224	2	3	a office	an office
			CHAPTER VII	
237	—	2	Let	led
237	1	11-12	It was experienced........ and 1900.	Delete
239	3	13	Kumbari	Kumhari
240	3	5	Dhumka	Ghumka
240	3	6	Gupsal	Ghupsal
240	6	7	Garhchirdi	Garhchiroh
244	1	3	Rajnandgon	Rajnandgaon
244	2	1	Totallength	Total length
250	1	2	Railpur	Raipur
254	1	2	Relayting	Relaying
			CHAPTER VIII	
255	Footnotes	5	1951.	1961
256	1	11	Wifo	Wife
256	2	3	education,	education.
257	—	2	uirtitutious	institutions
	1	1	was.85	was 8.5
	3	5	institu,iond,	institutions
	3	6	tand	and
258	1	3	phsysicians	physicians
262	1	2	(washermen)	(washermen),
262	1	19	are also	are

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
			CHAPTER IX	
264	2	12	1954	1951
265	4	1	date	data
266	1	10	Malayalim	Malayali
268	—	5	prices	price
268	1	25	8.37	3.37
270	1	2	Contineously	Continuously
271	Table 3 col. 5	3	18.79	17.19
272	—	17	period	Period
272 Table	Table col. 2	2	361.9	301.9
273	4	3	Confirm	Conform
274	1	13	Rs. 5 from	Rs. 5. From
,,	2	9	month	After 'month' read the following sentence: Mason's wage-rate remained Rs. 22. 8-0 per month.
,,	2	10	18-2-0	18-12-0
,,	2	12	and	had
278	3	4	8.547	84.57
279	2	7	an	au
280	1	4	imdebtness	indebtedness
,,	3	3	round 60	round and 60
,,	4	1	nao	not
,,	4	2	dat,	date
,,	4	3	tobaccot	tobacco
281	3	7	charges	changes
282	3	1	date	data
283	Table Col 4	7	12,048	12,042
285	Table Col. 5	1	70,93	70,913
287	2	6	function	functioning
,,	4	2	houres	masses
288	2	5	Rs. 9,32	Rs. 9.32
			CHAPTER X	
289	1	11	Disteict	District.
291	Footnote	1	Jahevary	January
291	,,	2	Post January was	post was

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
293	list	No. 5	Durg, Division	Durg Division
294	3	4	Collctorate	Collectorate
295	6	3	headquarter	headquarters
295	1	4	Assistant Station Master	Assistant Station Master
295	4	6	1958	1968
296	1	8	food Trading Corpo- ration	Food Trading Corporation

CHAPTER XI

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
298	2	5	Supri-	Superi-
303	1	9	encrochments	encroachments
309	5	3	wrs	was
315	2	4	andiess	and less
318	Subheading	2	Conccssions	Concessions

CHAPTER XII

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
328	4	9	rcised	exercised
329	sub-heading	1	IPS.	IPC.
333	5	2	Guaeds	Guards
334	2	4	faul	jail
340	3	6	enrotment	enrolment

CHAPTER XIII

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
346	1	9	Pig-rion	pig-iron
348	3	7	Sales Tax Officers Assistant	Assistant Sales Tax Officers Assistant

CHAPTER XIV

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
351	3	11	1968-69	1966-67
356	1	6	Durg. Near	Durg near
359	3	11	firrt	first
361	3	9	Sabha	Sabhas
362	9	4	and Balod	, Khairagarh and Balod
365	1	2	licence	license
367	1	3	developmennt	development

CHAPSER XV

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
375	3	5	increasrd	increased
384	2	6	senctioned	sanctioned

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
			CHAPTER XVI	
396	3	2	Fendatary	Feudatory
397	1	1	dicpensaries	dispensaries
,,	7	3	1916 and 1916	1916 and 1919
403	3	4	plauge	plague
407	3	5	durg	drug
,,	2	6	propoganda	propaganda
			CHAPTER XVII	
420	1	21	transsport	transport
421	1	6	succeding	succeeding
,,	5	6	let	led
422	..	1	economic social	economic, social
425	4	8	it	is
427	1	8	Clases	Classes
,,	2	6	Bearer	Berar
			CHAPTER XVIII	
430	5	6	July	Lasted up to July
432	..	6	Member (Abolition)	Member Constituencies (Abolition)
434	5	5	of the them	of them
			CHAPTER XIX	
441	..	7	19th	18th
449	5	3	Sankiri river	the Shankiri river
450	1	2	laddlord	land-lord
453	6	2	engraved	been engraved
454	5	2	currupted	corrupted